

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 203

TUESDAY AUGUST 25, 2009

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## OPINION METER

**This week's poll:**  
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As of August 21, 2009

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Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

## INSIDE



### Athens Fire

Wildfires raged unchecked for two days north of Athens, burning houses and swathes of forest.

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# Villagomez, Santos flown out

## Will now start serving prison terms

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER



Villagomez



James Santos



Joaquina Santos

Former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, his sister Joaquina V. Santos, and her husband, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos, were flown out of the CNMI yesterday afternoon to begin serving their sentences in a federal prison facility.

Reliable sources disclosed that Villagomez and the Santos couple were brought by U.S. Marshals Office agents to the Saipan International Airport for a 2pm or 2:30pm Continental flight to Guam.

As standard procedure, the U.S. Marshals Office does not reveal where a convicted person will be taken until he or she arrives at the prison facility in the U.S. mainland.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric  
**See VILLAGOMEZ on Page 4**

## Political appointees asked to submit police clearance

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
[haidee\\_eugenio@saipantribune.com](mailto:haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked all gubernatorial appointees and government board members on Thursday to turn in their police

clearance certificates yesterday to help ensure that they do not have a criminal record from the time they were appointed or re-appointed. Only about 20 complied.

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## Truck kills pedestrian in Kagman

**Female driver is arrested for DUI, reckless driving**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A pedestrian was killed when a pickup truck reportedly driven by an intoxicated woman hit him along Kagman Road near the Kagman Community Center Friday night.

Lorenzo A. Ayuyu, 40, suf-  
**See TRUCK on Page 4**



## CUC sales down by 30 pct. in 3 years

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s sales figures have gone down by over 30 percent in the

last three years, mainly because of high fuel prices that caused customers to conserve electricity, according to the latest investigation report filed by the  
**See CUC on Page 4**



### BRIEF VISIT

U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, left, is ushered by CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Ruth Coleman, right, to the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon. Mabus, along with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas commander Rear Admiral Douglas Biesel, met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, lawmakers, and members of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee in the governor's conference room.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



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## Local

# Man arrested for sealing minor in a freezer

A 23-year-old man was arrested Friday night in Susupe for allegedly sealing a minor in a chest freezer and biting her buttocks to discipline her.

Ricky Villagomez Manah-

ane was brought to the Superior Court yesterday to face charges of assault, battery and child abuse.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo im-

posed a \$25,000 cash bail for Manahane's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set for Aug. 31 at 9am.

According to the Office of the Attorney General, on April

27, 2008, Manahane sealed the child in a chest freezer in an attempt to discipline her for "being naughty."

The girl sustained bruises in the arm and foot when the de-

fendant grabbed her and pushed her into the chest freezer and then pulled her.

On July 10, 2008, Manahane also allegedly bit the girl on the buttocks, causing bruising and nearly breaking the skin through her pajama pants.

Manahane allegedly bit the minor to discipline her for playing with a water bucket.

Detective Vincent S. Mareham stated in his report that it was a teacher who discov-

ered the abuse after seeing the bruises on the child's arm and foot.

The mother was surprised and asked her daughter about it.

"Children can suffocate very quickly when trapped within a freezer and therefore, the actions of Manahane in placing the child inside a chest freezer to discipline her go far beyond any reasonable corporal punishment for a child," Mareham said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Man, 50, arrested for sexual abuse of 2 girls

Police arrested on Friday night in Finasisu a 50-year-old man who allegedly sexually abused two minor girls a couple of years ago.

Estanislao C. Villagomez was arrested for sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree and

sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

Villagomez was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a \$15,000 cash bail for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Preliminary hearing was set for Aug. 31 at 9am.

Detective Vincent S. Mareham stated in his report that on Jan. 11, 2009, Child Protective Services personnel escorted two minors to the Department of Public Safety to file a complaint.

Mareham said the minors alleged that the defendant sexually abused them in 2007 in separate incidents.

The defendant allegedly offered money to one minor to keep the incidents secret. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune



# NMC Fall semester enrollment jumps 17 percent

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's enrollment for the Fall semester jumped by a significant 17 percent and may still rise after the college extended its registration period to accommodate new students.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that as of yesterday, the college had a total of 933 students, an increase of 142 more students compared to the 2008 Fall semester's figure of 791 enrollees.

The overwhelming turnout is believed due to the college's efforts to reaffirm its accreditation. The Western Association of

Schools and College reaffirmed NMC's accreditation last July 4. The accreditation is effective until 2012.

The college's aggressive recruitment campaign was also cited as one of the factors that helped get more students to the campus.

Prior to the registration period, NMC conducted a Start Smart Senior seminar where more than 300 high school seniors from all public schools participated. It also held the Cash for College event, where NMC staff helped more than 400 students find scholarship money.

These are besides the onsite recruitment visits conducted

by the college to the island's high schools.

NMC's enrollment efforts were also expanded to participations in community events like the Flame Tree Arts festival, where thousands gather for the festivities.

The activities hosted by the College Access Challenge Project, a program aimed at increasing the enrollment numbers of students who are Native Pacific Islanders and from low-income families in the Commonwealth, were also cited as factors in the successful enrollment campaign for the Fall semester.

Acting NMC president Tee Abraham said yesterday they

are delighted with the new enrollment figure.

"We are extremely pleased that, despite challenging economic times—or perhaps because of it—many more students are turning to the Northern Marianas College to further their education or to gain a professional edge," said Abraham.

She said more and more people are realizing that a degree from NMC will not only save them a substantial amount of money in the long run, but also prepare them well for their future.

"The increase in the number of students enrolling is an in-

dication of the quality of education offered by the Northern Marianas College and the hard work by NMC's recruitment team, faculty and staff," added Abraham.

The final number of students enrolled for the Fall 2009 semester is expected to increase further as the college has extended registration until the first week of classes. Students who register during the first week of classes do not have to pay any

late registration fees.

Additionally, the college has opened new classes and sections to accommodate the surge in enrollment.

Yesterday was the first day of classes on campus.

Last week, the NMI Scholarship Office, through administrator Merissa Seman-Rasa, confirmed that the office also received a bigger number of applications from students who want to pursue college on-island.

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## Secretary of Navy makes quick stop on Saipan



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas commander Rear Admiral Douglas Biesel, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus shortly before holding a meeting yesterday afternoon in the governor's conference room on Capital Hill. Also in the meeting were members of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee whose members include the governor, lawmakers and mayors.

By **NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.**  
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REPORTER

The New Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, made a quick stop on Saipan yesterday as part of a familiarization tour in the Pacific region.

Mabus met with members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Hyatt Regency Saipan at noon.

Chamber officers said it was a closed-door meeting and barred reporters from the premises.

Around 2:30pm, Mabus had a courtesy call at the Governor's Office, where Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos were having a conference with members of the Military Integration Management Committee. The committee is composed of officials from various government agencies.

After a quick picture, the media was again barred from interviewing the new Navy secretary.

Prior to Saipan, Mabus and his party met government leaders in Guam yesterday to discuss the progress of the military buildup there.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz also talked with Mabus about the Guam port's modernization effort, and Hawaii Rep. Neil Abercrombie's wage amendment.

"Secretary Mabus expressed his commitment to assisting us in doing what's right for Guam and the Marines," said Camacho. "As former governor of Mississippi, he fully supports

our effort to modernize our seaport and understands the importance of protecting the livelihood of our people and keeping the military relocation balance."

Mabus said he is also committed to assisting the government of Guam in lobbying Washington, D.C., for approval of the U.S. Department of Agriculture rural development loan and discretionary funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

During discussions on the budgetary process for FY 2010, Mabus said he and Deputy Secretary of Defense William Lynn III have ongoing efforts to ensure that the Guam buildup is properly funded.

Mabus further told Camacho that he opposes Abercrombie's amendment and will continue to stand with the people of Guam to ensure the buildup will benefit the island's entire community.

Mabus' aide said the visit to Guam and Saipan are purely for familiarization purposes. She said they could not give any further details.

Mabus and his party went back to Guam immediately after the courtesy call on Fitial.

From Guam, Mabus' next stop will be Japan.

Mabus is a former governor of the state of Mississippi and U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

He was sworn in as Secretary of the Navy on May 19.

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# Tongan families may not have bodies recovered

By PESI FONUA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)**—Tongan authorities can do no more to recover the 72 bodies believed trapped inside a sunk-en ferry lying deep in the ocean without the help of expensive equipment from overseas, a police official said.

The Tongan government is expected to decide soon whether to bring that equipment in, but most believe it is unlikely because of the cost. Police on Friday told families who lost loved ones in the disaster that there is no guarantee their relatives will ever be retrieved.

"We have done everything possible

within the resources available to us in Tonga and from our regional partners" Australia and New Zealand, police commander Chris Kelley said.

The Princess Ashika sank Aug. 5 with 128 people on board and is lying upright on the sea bed 360 feet (110 meters) deep — too far for divers to reach without special equipment only available overseas.

A large wave overturned the vessel 55 miles (86 kilometers) northeast of the capital, Nuku'alofa. Fifty-four people survived, and police have located only two bodies.

The tragedy has reverberated through the tiny, impoverished South Pacific

kingdom, triggering accusations that the government allowed the ferry to operate despite being unseaworthy. The government has rejected the claims.

Kelley said even countries that have sophisticated undersea recovery equipment aren't able to help because of the depth of the water.

In this image made from a video and supplied by the New Zealand Defense Force on Wednesday Aug. 19, 2009, the Tongan ferry, Princess Ashika, is seen on the ocean bottom, 55 miles (86 kilometers) northeast of the capital, Nuku'alofa, Tonga, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2009 after it sank more than two weeks ago.

AP



## CUC

From Page 1

Georgetown Consulting Group.

The report, commissioned by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, showed that CUC's kilowatt-hour sales to customers have been decreasing in the course of the last 36 months—from May 2006 to April 2009.

In the last 12 months alone, sales went down by 10.8 percent, compared to the previous year's record.

"Sales over the 36-month period are down in excess of 30 percent," Georgetown report said.

The report noted that kWh sales to CUC customers reached its lowest point in February 2009 when CUC

recorded sales of just 18,000 megawatt hours. The sales figures have rebounded slightly from that low point, it added.

Georgetown said that one of the principal factors that contributed to the sales decline was the unprecedented fuel price volatility, causing customers to simply use a lesser amount of electricity.

The reduction was also a result of the continued fallout from the loss of garment industry on island, while the impact of CUC's failure to supply reliable power forced some customers to self-generate and go off the system.

Georgetown said some of these customers have returned to CUC.

It said the decline in sales is a significant issue since electric revenues are

derived from electricity purchased by customers.

Since most of CUC's non-fuel costs are fixed, Georgetown said such loss of base rate revenues has had a negative effect on CUC earnings and cash flow in the short-term.

"While it has little impact on levelized energy adjustment rates, this loss of a customer base is having a significant impact on CUC, which will be brought to the forefront when CUC's base electric rates are reviewed by the CPUC," Georgetown said, adding that the matter should be more fully explored in developing CUC's business plan.

The consultant had earlier proposed a 12 percent increase in LEAC starting October this year to help CUC recover its operating costs.

### 'Line losses at 20 pct.'

Georgetown also disclosed that CUC has about 20 percent in "unaccounted for energy"—or what it defined as line losses—in a period of 24 months.

"Unaccounted for energy is a significant issue that during the course of our investigation has been identified as a major problem at CUC," Georgetown said, describing the matter as serious but is greatly within CUC's control.

"At the present time, losses are totally out of control by any measure," it said.

Typically, a utility such as CUC will have about 6 to 7 percent of its power production "unaccounted for."

Although this level would be considered normal for a relatively compact, non-transmission utility, Georgetown said that CUC still has unaccounted

for energy levels in the 20-plus percent range, despite programs successfully implemented in 2008 to reduce line losses.

"[Georgetown] has been able to determine that CUC's unaccounted for energy levels are this high by comparing power plant production values to energy accounted for as a result of electricity sales and power plant use," the consultants said.

It said that in 24 months, CUC averages over 20 percent in unaccounted for energy. This means, CGC said, that all customers are paying through their LEAC rate a premium of approximately 13 percent.

By any standard of measure, this level of unaccounted for energy is "totally unacceptable," the consultants said.

## TRUCK

From Page 1

ferred traumatic brain injuries and abrasions in the abdomen, back, left arm, and foot. A doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center pronounced him dead at 8pm.

The driver, Sayuri Aldan Paulis, 34, was arrested for vehicular homicide, driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving, and exceeding the posted speed limit.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that traffic investigators had determined that Ayuyu was the cause of the crash.

Traffic investigators ruled that Ayuyu should have crossed the road using the

unmarked crosswalk at the intersection, which was about 60 feet from the location of impact.

However, Paulis admitted to traveling about 40 to 45 miles per hour before hitting Ayuyu and to drinking alcohol before driving her car, investigators said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona initially imposed a \$50,000 cash bail for the temporary release of Paulis.

During yesterday's bail hearing, Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo reduced the bail to \$10,000 cash. Preliminary hearing was set for Aug. 31 at 9am.

Traffic investigator Flor T. Estabillo stated in his report that police and medics responded to Kagman after receiving a call on Friday at 7:43pm about a

fatality in a vehicular accident.

When they got there, they saw Ayuyu lying face down on the road. He had no pulse.

Estabillo said when he arrived at the scene he saw Paulis' gold 2008 Mazda B2300 pickup truck resting next to a pine tree in front of a house. The truck had knocked down a Plumeria tree in front of the residence.

Estabillo said preliminary investigation showed that Paulis was driving north along Kagman Road when the incident happened.

As Paulis was approaching the Kagman Community Center, she suddenly saw a man, later identified as Ayuyu, standing in front of her lane about five feet away.

Paulis steered left to avoid him but

the truck still hit Ayuyu. The truck crossed onto the opposite lane, ran off the road and hit several trees within the yard of a house.

Estabillo said that Paulis admitted to investigators she was traveling 40 to 45 miles per hour in a 35-mile per hour zone before hitting the pedestrian.

During the interview, a police officer detected a strong odor of alcohol in the driver's breath, Estabillo said.

Paulis allegedly admitted that she had a few cans of beer during a family gathering at Pau Pau Beach earlier that day.

Paulis was arrested and transported to DPS where she was subjected to a field sobriety test.

The breathalyzer test indicated that Paulis had a blood alcohol content of

.195 which is over the legal limit of .08 percent, Estabillo said.

The pickup truck had extensive damage to the front, right and rear portion. Its hood and tires on the right side also had extensive damage.

Sources said Ayuyu was known on the island as very helpful.

He is the third vehicular crash fatality in the CNMI this year.

On April 1, a man died while four others were injured during a vehicular collision that was allegedly caused by an intoxicated driver along Dandan's main road.

Last Jan. 20, a pedestrian died when two vehicles struck him along Beach Road in front of the Marianas High School in Susupe. The pedestrian was found at fault.

## POLITICAL

From Page 1

Among those who have shown proof that they do not have a criminal record were senior policy adviser Ray Mafnas, newly sworn in Attorney General Edward Buckingham and Division of Environmental Quality director Frank Rabauliman, said press secretary Charles Reyes.

Reyes himself turned in his police clearance certificate during yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

*Saipan Tribune* also saw Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela's police clearance certificate as it was being handed to Reyes while he was being interviewed for this story.

Fitial's request came on the heels of controversy involving Jose L. Itibus, whom the governor re-appointed to the Commonwealth Election Commission board and who was confirmed by the Senate without ever asking him to submit a police clearance.

Itibus didn't show up at the swearing-in ceremony on Aug. 17.

Reyes said Itibus cannot continue

serving on the election board without being sworn in. Fitial earlier said the issues involving Itibus are being reviewed, particularly a pending criminal case.

But Itibus is just one of the many political appointees whose nominations were confirmed by the Senate without submitting any certificate showing that they do not have a criminal record.

Reyes, in a letter to Cabinet members on Thursday, said they should provide the governor with their updated police clearance to comply with 1 CMC 2901.

"If you are a gubernatorial appointee or a member of a government board, please submit a copy of your recent police clearance to the governor at our Cabinet meeting on Monday, August 24, 2009," he said.

In his letter, he also thanked the appointees for helping the Executive Branch "respond to community concerns and comply with the law."

"Please note that Senate President Pedro P. Reyes recently expressed a similar concern for 1 CMC 2901 when he publicly called for police clearances for all gubernatorial appointments or

nominations. The administration shares these concerns," he said.

Reyes added that appointees may secure a copy of their police clearance at the CNMI clerk of court for a \$15 fee.

Besides Cabinet secretaries, those who were asked to submit recent police clearance are members of the Commonwealth Election Commission board, Marianas Visitors Authority board, NMI Retirement Fund board, Commonwealth Development Authority board, and other boards and commissions.

## VILLAGOMEZ

From Page 1

O'Malley, who prosecuted the Rydlyme corruption case, refused to confirm with the *Saipan Tribune* that the defendants have already been flown out of the CNMI.

Villagomez and the Santos couple were required by the federal court to

call the U.S. Marshals Office every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning to check whether a prison facility has already been designated.

A source said that when the defendants called the U.S. Marshals Office yesterday morning, they were told to turn themselves in.

Villagomez and the Santos couple showed up at the U.S. Marshals Office at about 9:40am.

A source said Villagomez and the Santos couple were accompanied to the U.S. Marshals Office by a couple of Villagomez's children, his sister Rowina, and a brother-in-law.

After learning about this development, some family members and friends followed to the Horiguchi Building where the U.S. Marshals Office is located.

"Everybody went down, but by the

time they went down it was too late. They were already taken in," the source added.

Last Aug. 5, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Villagomez to seven years and three months in prison for his role in the Rydlyme corruption scandal.

Munson sentenced James and Joaquina to six years and six months in prison each for their involvement in the scheme to defraud the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp. and the United States.

The judge allowed the defendants to remain free while a federal prison facility where they will serve their sentences was still being designated.

Villagomez and the Santos couple have already appealed their conviction, sentences, and court decisions on their numerous motions to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.



## BoE approves 180 school days in new school year

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Starting next month, all public school students will be attending a total of 180-day instructions on campus while enjoying some 30 days of rest and vacation with their families, based on the calendar approved by the Board of Education for school year 2009-2010.

Thousands of students in public schools are scheduled to start regular classes on Sept. 8; school sessions are slated to close on June 15 next year.

Saipan Tribune learned that the board approved 45-day class sessions for the first quarter; 44 days for second quarter; 45 days for the third quarter; and 46 days for the last quarter.

The first quarter period covers Sept. 8 through Nov. 13; the second quarter is from Nov. 16 through Jan. 29; third quarter, Feb. 1 to April 9; and the last quarter, from April 12 to June 15.

Of the 30 out-of-school schedule for the year, 10 are for administrative and professional development; 13 are for state, federal, and local holidays; and seven are designated student holidays for the Public School System.

The board approved four days of professional development in September, one day in October, one day in November, one in February, and three

days in June 2010.

The seven student holidays include Thanksgiving on Nov. 27, five days for the Christmas break, and the Easter break on April 5.

There are 13 legal holidays that PSS will observe next school year: Labor Day, Commonwealth Day, Citizenship and Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Constitution Day, Christmas and New Year celebrations, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, President's Day, Covenant Day, Good Friday, and Independence Day.

The Education Board also approved the following commencement rites for middle and secondary schools: Rota Jr. and High School, June 8; Tinian High, June 9; Chacha Oceanview, June 10; Marianas High School, June 11; Kagman High, June 14; Hopwood Junior High, June 15; and Saipan Southern High, June 16.

During last week's principals' meeting, school administrators assured the readiness of their schools and students for the opening of classes next month.

Last school year, nearly 11,000 kids were accommodated from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade in 20 public schools.

The system's staff is expected to also jump this school year, after PSS approved the hiring of 85 additional teachers for both elementary and high school.

## House panel wants new list of land payment recipients

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The House Committee on Natural Resources wants the Department of Public Lands to submit a list of individuals who have received land compensation under Public Law 16-31, which authorizes DPL to pay land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts.

"Many of the concerned citizens have yet to receive compensation owed them by the government for using their properties," committee chair Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) said in an Aug. 20 letter to DPL Secretary John Del Rosario Jr.

The DPL secretary could not be immediately reached for comment but as of yesterday, Tebuteb said his committee has yet to receive a response from Del Rosario.

The committee is requesting DPL not only to provide a list of individuals who have received land compensation through P.L. 16-31, but also a list of those who are not entitled to receive compensation under the law.

House Bill 16-206, authored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), became P.L. 16-31 on March 10 after the Senate overrode Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto of it. The House of Representatives overrode the veto on Feb. 13.

The law authorizes DPL to pay for land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts "in cases where land exchange is not a viable or desirable option."

In vetoing the bill on Feb. 11, the governor said there is nowhere in Article XI of the CNMI Constitution that mentions land compensation payments as one of the allowable expenses from moneys received from public lands.

But lawmakers said DPL has been sued over land compensation payments, and it's time the agency fulfills its duty to pay for land compensation.

On Jan. 8, for example, the CNMI Superior Court ordered DPL to pay \$1.8 million to the heirs of Rita Rogolifo as compensation for the family's As Mahetog lands that were used by the government for public

## Fitial inks alcohol ban exemption, junks AG bill

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signed into law a bill that exempts Managaha Island from the Election Day alcohol ban, but vetoed a bill that makes it unlawful for anyone to serve as attorney general in an acting capacity for over 30 days without nomination to the Senate or in excess of 90 days upon nomination.

Rep. Rosemond B. Santos' House Bill 16-192 HD 1, which is now Public Law 16-45, includes Managaha on the list of places—airports, hotels, resorts, and golf course resorts—that are exempt from the prohibition of alcoholic beverage sales on Election Day.

Election law requires an alcohol ban to be in effect from 7am

to 7pm while polling places are open, on the day of an election. Anyone caught selling or buying liquor could be fined up to \$1,000 or sent to jail for up to 100 days in prison, or both.

Fitial signed P.L. 16-45 on Thursday, the same day he vetoed House Bill 16-51 SD1 or the Attorney General Confirmation Act of 2009.

In his message to the presiding officers of the Legislature, Fitial said he's aware of the importance of having an attorney general who has been confirmed by the Senate and who is thus empowered to act with greater authority than someone occupying the position on a temporary basis.

Since the resignation of former Attorney General Matthew Gregory on Sept. 28, 2008, Fi-

tial said he searched diligently to find a highly qualified attorney in whom he had confidence and who was willing to undertake the responsibilities of the position permanently.

When the former attorney general quit his post, deputy attorney general Gregory Baka became acting attorney general.

Fitial did not submit Baka's name to the Senate for confirmation because, as deputy attorney general, Baka succeeded to the position of acting attorney general.

But the Senate had been vocal in their opposition to Baka, and Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) earlier said he would use his influence to make sure Baka was not confirmed.

In March, Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and

eight other senators, including Reyes, introduced SB 16-51 SD1, or the "Attorney General Confirmation Act of 2009," clarifying the law that requires Senate confirmation.

Yesterday, Reyes said he does not have a problem with the bill's veto because the Senate already confirmed Buckingham as new attorney general.

"It's now moot. I am not concerned about that anymore because we now have an attorney general," he said.

Under the bill, if the governor or his designee does not submit the individual who has been appointed or is otherwise serving in an acting capacity or who has assumed the title of AG, acting AG, or interim AG within 30 days, the individual cannot serve in those positions for two years.

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# 'Troops are impatient due to delayed homecoming'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The homecoming for the CNMI's 70 reserved officers with the Echo Company had been postponed again with no definite schedule this time.

The officers are becoming

impatient while their families back home are kept in a state of disappointment, according to Rep. Stanley Torres.

Torres told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the troops are very disappointed with their officer-in-charge.

"The boys do not like him,

according to my source in Honolulu. He doesn't care about them," Torres said. The identity of the officer-in-charge could not be immediately verified.

Troops from Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa have already arrived home as early as Saturday.

The Echo Company troops have just finished its yearlong assignment in Kuwait and were flown back to their headquarters in Fort Hood, Texas, on Aug. 13.

The CNMI reserve officers were first set to come home last Friday, Aug. 21, but due to last minute arrangements, the home-

coming was moved to Sunday.

A mechanical problem with the chartered plane further postponed their arrival, supposedly to today.

But yesterday, Military Veterans Affairs executive officer Ruth Coleman said there was a change in schedule again, still due to the mechanical problems with the chartered plane.

Torres, who said he has relatives with the troops, said this should not be an excuse.

"They can always change the plane because it is a chartered plane anyway," he said.

He said this should not happen because when the troops

were called to duty, the U.S. military did not even consider the fact that some of them were building homes at that time.

"Now after serving one year and engaging in the war, they are not being taken cared of. It should be up to a good leader. This delay should have not happened in the first place. Their families are eager to see them come home," he said.

Coleman said the troops have no problem with the officer-in-charge.

"I'd rather want to see them come home safely. It's just that there is still a mechanical problem with the plane," she said.

## Car show a success despite bad weather

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Organizers were happy to report that last Saturday's car show was still a big success despite the bad weather.

"It could have been a bigger success but the turnout was alright. The weather did not stop people from coming to the show," said organizer Tina Palacios.

Power 99 and Shell Marianas were the main organizer of this year's event, dubbed "Real Deal on Wheelz 2009" held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Palacios said the event drew a total of 25 entries, with some new cars and a lot of regular participants.

One of the biggest attractions of the day was a customized 1997 yellow Honda Civic with 12 television monitors and wireless Internet service.

Owner Michael Catacutan of The Custom Auto Shop in Chalan Kanoa personally designed a Transformer-inspired car with 90-degree Lamborghini doors that are lifted up. It has a trans-

parent engine hood and 15-inch and 12-inch subwoofers.

It took a month for Team Ignition R to finish their entry with the help of three technicians: Arnold Bechayda, Ariel Redimo and Toto Ternaje.

"This is our first time to join the car show, thanks to our sponsors Sherwin Williams, Ideal Signs and The Custom Shop," Catacutan said.

It took a month to finish the car, at a cost of about \$8,000.

Another crowd drawer was Jefferson Santos' 1994 Eclipse that also has 80-degree Lamborghini doors and a Rivers hood.

His car's other special features include air suspension, all front-fiberglass (all-hand-made and upgraded from 1994-2006 Eclipse), a Kenwood subwoofer for the stereo, and a TV monitor.

"It's just a hobby. I have a Mercedes that I don't use it now. My dad has a machine shop and I just love to do my own creations," said Santos.

One of the regular competitors was James Fleming, who changed all the engine parts



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

This car is among the crowd favorites at Power 99's "Real Deal on Wheelz 2009" during a rainy Saturday afternoon.

and accessories of his Honda Civic from Japanese to American spare parts.

"It's more expensive. It cost me \$20,000," said Fleming, who had been competing in the past 12 years.

He has already collected 36 trophies, almost all of them first places.

"The only time I finished second was in Guam two times and twice also on Saipan; the rest were first places," he said.

He also entered a motorcy-

cle—a Honda CBR 600, which he uses for his daily ride.

Palacios said a car show like this must be organized on Saipan to set the level high for car enthusiasts.

"This is so much needed on the island. We would like to have a convention center where we can hold an event like this even when there's rain," Palacios said.

Other sponsors were IT&E, Docomo, 670 Rock Steady, and U2 Selection.

## French Polynesia records first flu deaths

Some 10,000 cases of swine flu across the territory

**PAPEETE, Tahiti** (Tahitipresse/PIR)—The French Polynesia Health Ministry has announced Tahiti's first swine flu deaths—two women and a baby. It also announced there are an estimated 10,000 influenza A cases throughout French Polynesia, with 20 people hospitalized.

A Health Ministry communiqué provided no information about the deaths and when they occurred. Its only comment was, "Since the epidemic's beginning, three deaths linked to the influenza A/H1N1 have been reported—two women and an infant."

However, the ministry had previously reported that Papeete and Paris health officials had not identified as swine flu-caused deaths two deaths over the past two weeks. They included Thursday's death of a one-and-a-half-year-old baby. The latest report was that blood samples from the baby and a young woman who died on Aug. 5 were still being examined at a private laboratory in France.

Friday's communiqué reported that the influenza A virus had spread throughout most of the islands and atolls

of French Polynesia. It specifically named Tahiti, Moorea, all of the Leeward Islands (Bora Bora, Raiatea, Huahine and Maupiti), the Marquesas Islands (Atuona, Fatu Hiva, Ua Pou, Taiohae), the Austral Islands (Rurutu, Tubuai, Rapa) and the Tuamotu-Gambier Islands (Manihi, Fakarava, Ahe, Makemo, Tatakoto, Hao).

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry announced in a second communiqué that it will no longer recommend that any school classrooms or entire schools be shut down due to students coming down with the influenza A (H1N1).

However, classrooms and schools already closed will remain closed for whatever

period was originally announced. In the first communiqué, the ministry said 38 primary schools, 183 primary classrooms, eight secondary schools and 183 secondary classrooms had been closed.

French Polynesia Health Minister Nicolas Bertholon was interviewed Friday night on RFO-Polynésie, the French government owned and operated television station. He indicated that the Temaru government had decided to radically change its policy dealing with school and classroom closings.

Up until the new decision, the Health Ministry's policy was to close a classroom when there were three suspected cases of swine flu, and to close an entire

school when half its classrooms had been closed.

Bertholon explained to the evening television audience the reversal decision by saying that instead of trying to contain the influenza A epidemic to avoid an economic impact, "we did exactly the opposite because for three ill students, 30 students were sent home and 30 parents were also blocked at home to take care of their children."

The health minister added that all schools in French Polynesia would be fully open next week.

Bertholon also talked during the TV interview about the French government's decision Friday to send "medical and technical reinforcements" to French Polynesia and New Caledonia due to the swine flu's progression in both French Pacific overseas collectivities.

## New Caledonia: 2 more swine flu deaths

**NOUMEA, New Caledonia** (AP)—Officials in New Caledonia say two people "without any known complicating factors" have died from swine flu, bringing the total of A-H1N1 deaths on the French South Pacific territory to five.

The government says in a statement that the two, a 30-year-old man and a 45-year-old woman, died on Friday and Saturday, respectively.

Both had been hospitalized since mid-Au-

gust and died of pneumonia caused by the virus, said the statement Monday. Unlike the three previous swine flu deaths in New Caledonia, neither had any complicating factors such as pre-existing illnesses.

Authorities in metropolitan France in July announced the country's first death from swine flu, but said the 14-year-old victim had been suffering from another serious illness.

## CNMI gets \$80K federal grant for health services

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI had been awarded a federal grant of \$80,000 that would be used for planning purposes for the Commonwealth Health Center.

This fund is part of the \$25.7 million in grants announced Sunday by Secretary Kathleen Sebelius of the Department of Health and Human Services, to expand and improve health and support services at various health centers in the United States, including the CNMI.

Sebelius said these grants could not have come at a better time because health centers are seeing more patients now than ever before.

DHHS says that more than 14.5 million Americans are currently out of work and an estimated 47 million are without health insurance.

DHHS said the nation's health center system served more than 17 million medically underserved people in 2008. This is

## 65 scholarship slots at LISS available for local students

The president of the Ladera International School of Saipan, Yong Nam Park, is opening 65 scholarship slots for local students this school year.

In a statement yesterday, LISS said that five slots will be open for first grade students; seven slots will each be available for second, third, fifth, and eighth grades; six slots for fourth and sixth grades; and 10 slots for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

This scholarship program will enable local students to be educated in one of the fastest growing schools in the CNMI.

"What ILC corporation is providing to the community is truly a privilege. We are committed to ensuring that our programs not only meet certain standards, but exceed to a level that we build leaders. Our offer to provide LISS with the funding to open up more scholarships to

an increase of up to 10 million from the patients who were served in 2001.

DHHS said this has increased by one million patients since the economic downturn, one third of them children.

CNMI has been included among the 48 areas that were awarded planning grants totaling more than \$3.8 million.

The funds would be distributed to organizations in hard hit areas that do not have health centers to help them develop new service delivery sites.

DHHS said new health center sites must meet federal requirements for governance, community involvement, quality of care and financial feasibility.

The Health Resources and Services Administration of DHHS provides funds for a national network of more than 1,100 community, migrant, homeless and public housing health center grantees.

These organizations provide health care at more than 7,500 clinical sites, ranging from large medical facilities to mobile vans.

children who are deserving is a gift we can offer from time to time," said Park.

He said the scholarships will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis while meeting the necessary criteria.

Based on its website, the school's student body is a mix of cultures that are representative of the Saipan community.

LISS said that its student body is 28 percent U.S. mainlanders; 36 percent local residents; 18 percent East Asian (Korea, Japan, China); and 18 percent, others.

LISS was founded in June 2006 by ILC Corporation. It is a secular private international school and was built to provide quality education to a maximum of 180 students.

The school is available to both local students and boarding students from Asia or other locations. (*Moneth Deposa*)



# WIA: Investing in the youth for the CNMI's future

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.  
n\_rodriguez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

During summer vacation, one is apt to see youngsters manning the front desks or reception areas of government offices or big private companies. Or if you just want to transact official business over the phone, the first thing you'll hear is a young tentative voice on the other line.

These young individuals are participants in the annual training program of the Workforce Investment Agency, which seeks to equip these young adults with life skills that they can later use when they go into the workforce full time.

Some of them were glad to share with the *Saipan Tribune* their experiences with their respective workplaces—and everyone said they were never bored at all. Besides, they get a full salary like any regular employee.

Doraleen Santos, 18, is just starting to learn how to operate some of the basic office equipment like a fax machine and how to properly respond to telephone calls.

Santos, a fresh graduate of Kagman High School, is with the WIA office, along with school-

mate Maria Maban, 17.

"I'm enjoying it very much," said Santos, who is bound for a university in Texas where she will be taking up a course in accountancy.

She assists fellow WIA students with their identification cards and answering phone calls from parents.

"I tell them that their checks are ready for pickup. I learned how to use the fax machine. I also learned how to deal with people from other islands," Santos says.

She says she learned a lot about operating computers and doing paper work without making any mistakes.

"It keeps me busy all day," she says.

She will earn a total salary of \$728 that she plans to deposit in the bank for use at a later time.

A total of 902 youths ranging from 14-24 years old joined the program this year, including 348 in Phase I (July 6-July 31) and 554 in Phase II (Aug. 3 - Aug. 28). That number is for Saipan alone.

There are 84 on Tinian and 82 on Rota during the phase one period only.

The Department of Public Health got the most number of trainees, with 11 during the

first phase and 55 in the second phase.

Alvander Pua, 15, of Marianas High School, said he loves his work at the new Commonwealth Health Center building, as he gets to provide assistance to patients for immunizations or pre-natal care.

He said this give him a first-hand experience of how the health care system works.

"I will join again next year and come back to the same place," he said.

A significant number also went to the Department of Public Safety, with 11 in phase I and 29 in phase 2, where they were distributed to various offices—Human Resources, Motor Vehicle, Fire Department, and Police Division.

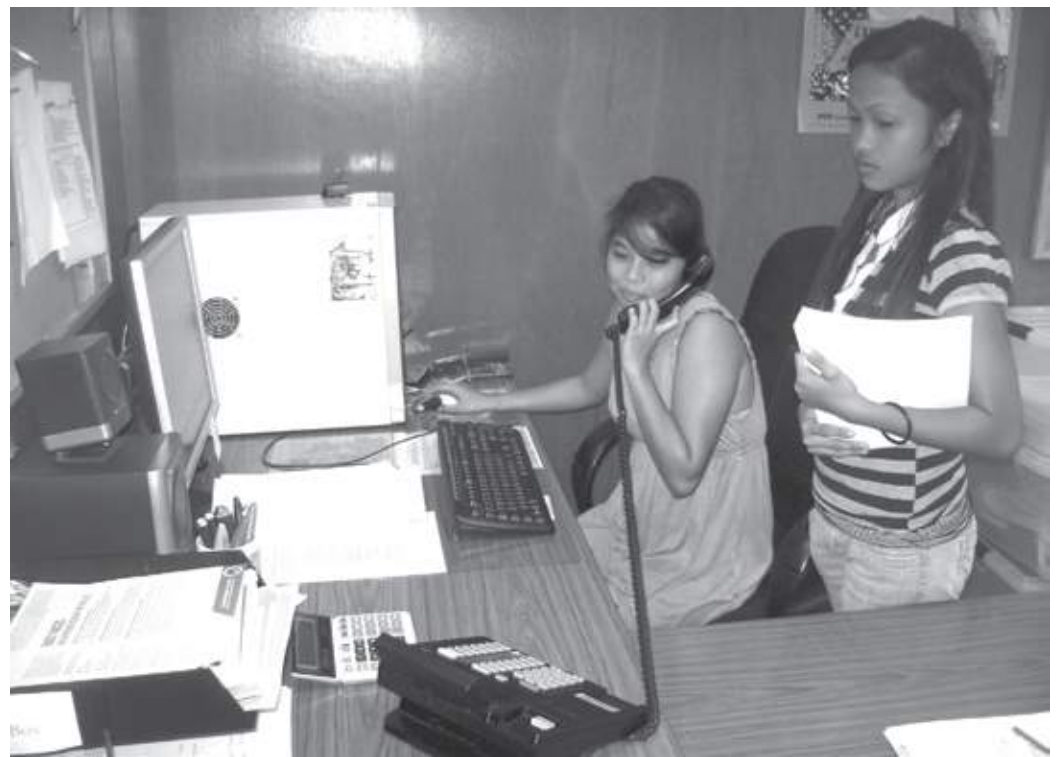
Department of Finance enjoyed the services of 24 trainees, who were placed in various sections like the Revenue and Tax Division, Treasury, and Customs.

The *Saipan Tribune* has three trainees this time.

One of them, Sherlaine Rivera, also of MHS, says the work is easy and enjoyable.

"It's easy for me. Besides I'm a fast learner," Rivera quips.

She types news stories most



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Doraleen Santos and Maria Maban are just two of the over 900 on-the-job trainees this summer 2009 under the Workforce Investment Agency's summer employment program.

of the time or assists the editorial department with accessing international news reports.

She says she will save the money she will earn from this.

Other trainees also witnessed how some offices maintain the bureaucratic process. An interview with two trainees was cut short by an irate supervisor, who wanted the two to first obtain permission for the interview from a higher-up, just as

the trainees were about to share some of their experiences.

However, the program is generally going smoothly, according to WIA's Barbara Flores Santos, who is responsible for keeping the records.

"Yes, there are also problems reported but those were just minor," Santos said.

Registration started in May and orientation activities were done in June.

This program is to accord employment training opportunities to disadvantaged and neediest youth, both out of school and those within the school system. These are the low income, barrier and food stamps recipients.

A trainee can choose what kind of job he/she wants, a request from an employer and proximity from residence.

Each trainee receives an hourly rate of \$4.55

## NMI Humanities Council reschedules cha-cha event

To kick off the NMI Humanities Month celebrations in October, the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities has rescheduled its first cha-cha dance fundraiser to Oct. 2, 2009.

"Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature live music from Olomwaay, Parker and Burning Bush at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

"We are honored to continue the efforts of our late executive director Tony Deleon Guerrero to make this fundraiser a worthwhile and enjoyable community event," said the Council's Development Committee chair, Janet H. King.

"We are also still actively seeking sponsors for this fundraiser through educational tax credit donations to the Council that will allow us to continue or create new programs for the community," she said. "We hope many of our local businesses will be able to help."

The Educational Tax Credit program allows taxpayers—businesses or individuals—to make

cash contributions to the Humanities Council and receive a nonrefundable credit against local wage and salary, gross receipts, and earnings taxes. The credit is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the actual tax owed to the CNMI Government.

The Council is a private, non-profit, organization with 501(c) (3) status that has operated in the Commonwealth since 1991 and is eligible to receive Educational Tax Credit. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities

through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth.

"Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature a cha-cha contest, live performances all night long and a chance to help a great community organization. Tickets are \$10 per person with a complimentary drink and will be available at the NMIHC office at the King's Plaza in Dandan this week. Call 235-4785 for more information. (PR)

### CONTACT INFO

Tel: 235-4785

## Witnesses invite all to 'Keep on the Watch!'

Jehovah's Witnesses are launching a vigorous campaign to invite all to hear interesting discussions about the Bible's description of what many people refer to as the end of the world. Witnesses are convinced that people will be intrigued and even encouraged by what will be presented at the 2009 "Keep on the Watch!" District Convention, to be held at the Northern Marianas High School Gym.

Jehovah's Witnesses are extending a personal invitation to everyone on Saipan to attend the three-day event that will begin Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, at 9:20am.

The theme is based on several passages of the Bible, includ-

ing Matthew 24:42 and Mark 13:37, where Jesus Christ instructed his followers to "keep on the watch." How the Bible illuminates and clarifies the import of those words for modern Bible readers will be the focus of the program. Admission to the convention is free, and no collections will be taken.

The Witnesses' campaign has included the distribution of an attractively illustrated invitation. This is similar to what they did in 2007 for their successful "Follow the Christ" District Convention. They hope to extend a personal invitation to as many people as possible.

Locally, the two Saipan as well as the Tinian and Rota Wit-

ness congregations will be supporting this effort to increase awareness of the convention. An estimated 350 will come to Northern Marianas High School Gym during the final weekend of August 2009.

Witnesses anticipate an excellent turnout for the event. They look forward to welcoming many non-Witnesses to the convention and believe that all who attend will benefit from the practical and timely information presented.

Throughout Micronesia, there will be nine conventions on nine islands. Worldwide, there are over 7,100,000 Witnesses in more than 103,000 congregations. (PR)

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT/ NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MARPI, SAIPAN

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Public Works in conjunction with CRM, DPL, DEQ, HPO and FWL are making available for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Assessment Report (DEAR) prepared for the proposed Kalabera Cave Development Project proposed by the government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Marianas Visitors Authority is the project sponsor. The project is federally funded by the United States Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs for Capital Improvement Projects under Section 118 of Public Law 104-134, and is pursuant to Article XIV Section 3 of the NMI Constitution including the NMI Historic Preservation Act of 1982, Public Law 3-39.

The project is designed to meet or exceed the requirements of local and federal laws, and construction includes car and bus parking, pathway, resting house, house of prayer, pictograph Interpretive house, and cave interior lighting.

An Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), which is a written document that discusses the potential environmental effects of the project and feasible mitigation measures to reduce those effects to less-than-significant levels, is proposed for certification by the Commonwealth pursuant to the NEPA and NHPA Guidelines. Possible environmental impacts of this project include impacts upon or related to aesthetics, transportation, air quality, noise, cultural and historical resources, biological resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, hazardous materials, and public utilities and service systems. Responsible and trustee agencies and those who have already expressed an interest in this matter will automatically receive a copy of the Draft EAR; for other interested persons, copies of the Draft EAR may be requested from the Department of Public Works at the address and telephone number given below or from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the address and telephone number given below. The 30-day review period for the Draft EAR is from August 7th - September 8th, 2009. During this period, comments may be submitted to the Department of Public Works at the address given below, in either writing or by e-mail, or comments may be made during the public hearing, the date and location of which is described below.

Said public hearing where all interested members of the public may attend and be heard will be held on Friday, the 28th day of August 2009, beginning at 6:30 p.m., at the Gregorio Camacho Elementary School Cafeteria in San Roque, Saipan. This hearing will be for acceptance of public comments on the Draft EAR by DPW staff or staff from Herman B. Cabrera & Associates. No decision regarding the project or certification of the EAR will be made at this meeting. A final decision on this project will be made at a future date at a meeting of the Department of Public Works, who would also consider certification of the EAR at that time. All persons interested in the matter may appear and be heard at this meeting.

Copies of the Draft EAR in spiral bound form may be obtained in person from:

Department of Public Works  
Technical Service Division,  
Joeten Building, 2nd Floor,  
San Jose Village  
Saipan, MP 96950.  
Tel: 670-234-9828/38

and

Herman B. Cabrera & Associates  
P.O. Box 501421  
Garapan Village  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Attn: Herman B. Cabrera, AIA President  
E-Mail: hbcabrera@gmail.com  
Tel: 670-234-1778  
A copy will be charged at the nominal rate of \$0.20 per sheet.

A copy of the document may also be viewed at:  
Joeten Kiyu Public Library  
Susupe  
Saipan, MP 96950

Comments on the Draft EAR should be submitted to the Department of Public Works or to Herman B. Cabrera & Associates at the e-mail address or his address above. Comments on the Draft EAR must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 28, 2009.



# UC offers to return Japanese remains

By JIM DOYLE  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

University of California officials have sent letters to Japanese authorities offering to return a collection of skulls and bones from World War II to Japan, a UC Berkeley spokesman said Thursday.

They have also sent an e-mail to the Defense Department, asking for legal advice regarding the applicability of laws and regulations to a U.S. Navy doctor's procurement of

the remains on Saipan and the museum's housing of them.

The *Chronicle* reported Sunday that the skulls and bones of several Japanese who committed suicide during the U.S. invasion of Saipan in 1944 are being kept in an underground vault at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the UC Berkeley campus.

Anthropologists, international law experts and state lawmakers have expressed outrage, saying the case presents legal and ethical issues, including apparent viola-

tions of the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims.

The skulls and bones were kept in the former Navy doctor's private collection until 1974, when he donated them to the university museum.

Correspondence was sent Tuesday to the Japanese ambassador in Washington, the Japanese consul general in San Francisco, the Japanese consul general in Saipan and Japan's War Victims Relief Bureau, said UC Berkeley spokesman Dan Mogulof.

Mogulof said he would not

make public copies of the letters until Japanese officials and U.S. military officials respond.

Tadayuki Mizutani, a first secretary at Japan's Embassy in Washington, said Japan will soon decide how to proceed.

University officials have not acknowledged that any errors in judgment were made in accepting the Saipan remains into the collection.

UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau and UC President Mark Yudof have declined requests for interviews.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Maltese dog found

On Monday morning, a responsible worker at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe reported to PAWS that she had found an adult male Maltese just outside the hotel.

If you are missing a friendly male Maltese, contact Paradise Island Animal Hospital at 234-9669. Alternatively, you may contact PAWS at 285-PAWS.

Please note that if the dog is not claimed within four days of this notice, the dog will be made available for adoption to a responsible and loving home. (PR)

### Parent orientation at SAES

San Antonio Elementary School would like to inform the public that the parent orientation for the following grade levels will be as follows:

- |                      |                                  |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sept. 8 (Tuesday):   | Kindergarten 3pm-4pm             |
|                      | 4 <sup>th</sup> graders, 4pm-5pm |
|                      | 5 <sup>th</sup> graders 5pm-6pm  |
|                      | 6 <sup>th</sup> graders 6pm-7pm  |
| Sept. 9 (Wednesday): | 1 <sup>st</sup> graders, 4pm-5pm |
|                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> graders, 5pm-6pm |
|                      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> graders, 6pm-7pm |

The orientation will be in each respective classroom. We would like to ask all parents to be present to receive important information that will be given out by each classroom teacher. Please be on time. (PR)

### Live-fire exercises on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy is conducting live-fire exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla until Aug. 28, from 9am to 9pm.

The general location of this activity is on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The Farallon de Medinilla Target Range is the Pacific Fleet's only U.S.-controlled range available for live-fire training for forward deployed naval forces. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)

### John Gonzales Live schedule

Aug. 26, 2009 *LIVE* – Replays 8/30 and 8/31 @ 7-8 pm : Community Guidance Center Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, & Recovery Programs and Services. Guests are Edward DLC. Camacho, Substance Abuse Treatment & Recovery; Becky Covarrubias Robles, Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program; Bob Scruggs, testimonial of tobacco cessation program participant; and an anonymous testimonial of a Substance Abuse Treatment & Recovery participant.

Shows air on KSPN Channel 2. *LIVE* Text: 285-META; *LIVE* Call: 287-4230; Email: johngonzales@pticom.com.

### KagES parents' orientation schedule

The Kagman Elementary school parent orientation is scheduled on Sept. 3, 2009. All parents are highly encouraged to attend the orientation and meet your children teachers' for the upcoming SY 2009-2010. The students' school supply list will be provided by teachers during the parent orientation. Orientation time for Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will be at 9am-11am. Orientation time for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be at 1pm-3pm in the school cafeteria. (PR)

### Kagman High School notice

Kagman High School will conduct an orientation for 9th graders (freshmen) on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, from 9:30am to 11:30am. For 10th graders (sophomores), it will be from 1pm to 3pm at the Kagman High School cafeteria. For 11th graders (juniors) and 12th graders (seniors), orientation will be on Friday, Aug. 28, 2009, from 9:30am to 11:30am. For more information, call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. (PR)

### MHS reminder for freshmen

Incoming freshmen of the Marianas High School are being reminded to turn in their "School Entrance Health Certificate" (blue health immunization certificate) to the MHS Registrar's Office between 8am-4pm, Mondays-Fridays. For questions and concerns, call 237-3206. (PR)

### SVES sets Open House, parent orientation

The San Vicente Elementary School is inviting all parents to its upcoming Open House (Parent Orientation) on Friday, Sept. 4, from 9am to 12pm. Parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher and receive the requested supply list for the coming school year. Orientations will be held by grade level in the following classrooms:

- Kindergarten I-24
- 1<sup>st</sup> Grade K-26
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade E-14
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade K-31
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade B-7
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade A-2
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade A-9



### NEW PIPES

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Hawaiian Rock Products laborers workers labor last week to replace the old metal pipes of Hanson Micronesia Cement, which are 15 to over 20 years old. The excavation has resulted in the closure of portions of the road near the Saipan seaport in Lower Base.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Aug 25, 1999

### Young's aide satisfied with reforms—Teno

A key aide to U.S. House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) has expressed his satisfaction to local leaders over recent labor and immigration reforms they have put in place in efforts to quell federal takeover proposal in the Congress.Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed yesterday that his meeting with Manase Mansur, adviser on insular and international affairs for the House panel who is visiting the island, has led to understanding the present conditions of the Northern Marianas.He said the discussion tackled labor and immigration laws which his administration has implemented months after Young and other members of the committee visited the island last February.

### Sept. 22 is deadline for filing of candidacy

The Board of Elections yesterday urged all political parties to submit their nominating petitions for candidates on or before Sept. 22, the deadline for filing of candidacy.BOE Executive Director Greg Sablan said the board is scheduled to meet on Sept. 29 and 30 to review and certify the nominating petitions. Sablan said two independent candidates, both racing for the Precinct 4 seats at the House of Representatives, have filed their petitions with the board. BOE has certified Benigno M. Sablan's petition. The other candidate, Justo Quitugua, filed his petition yesterday.

Aug 25, 2000

### Bad records derail OPA audit of NMC

The Office of the Public Auditor is increasing efforts that would pave the way for the completion of its long-standing audit of the Northern Marianas College, which has been ongoing for more than two years now. Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said the CNMI's lone higher learning institution's previous records were badly kept, hampering OPA's efforts to complete its audit-investigation promptly. "NMC records were bad. Some of the documents that are vital to our audit are hard to find. You can't finish an audit-investigation promptly if you are dealing with bad records," said Mr. LaMotte.

### Initiative clears House

The proposed legislative initiative mandating a minimum 25 percent share of the budget for public education hurdled its first step yesterday after the House of Representative approved the proposal with major changes.Education officials, however, lost their battle to keep surplus budget left in a fiscal year into the next as one amendment requires that the excess money be returned to the general fund for re-appropriation by the Legislature. Such fiscal authority was one of the provisions they fought to be inserted in House Legislative Initiative 12-1 when the measure was being reviewed by the Committee on Education.

Aug 25, 2002

### Governor beefs up Rota's emergency fund

A measure that seeks to beef up emergency fund for use in the rehabilitation of Rota from last month's onslaught of Typhoon Chata'an earned Gov. Juan N. Babauta's signature, giving local leaders the authority in disbursing the money for the island's swift recovery.The Governor signed House Bill 13-167, which reprograms funds from several statutes to the Typhoon Chata'an Emergency Fund, into Public Law 13-167 Wednesday. "I have signed this measure to allow the reprogramming of funds from various public laws to help the people of Rota from the extensive damage created by Typhoon Chata'an," Babauta said in his transmission letter to Speaker Heinz Hofschneider and Senate President Paul A. Manglona.

### Tinian Head Start in peril

Northern Marianas students have eagerly counted the days left of the summer for their return to the academic world but not all of them are bound to go back to school yet. Head Start students on Tinian will have to spend the whole day Monday with their moms or sitters, as their teachers have reportedly vowed to boycott tomorrow's classes due to wage and salary problems. At least 50 Tinian Head Start students—including those with disabilities—may not be able to go to school until the Public School System and the Head Start program address the teachers' concerns. According to acting site Program Manager Evelyn Evangelista, Head Start classes will not resume tomorrow after two teachers did not receive their respective paychecks Friday.



# CPSC clears drywall of radiation risks

Testing conducted by federal and state agency radiation laboratories found no radiation safety risk to families in homes built with manufactured drywall, according to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission statement issued yesterday.

Responding to recent news accounts about the possibility of imported drywall containing radioactive phosphogypsum, federal and state agency radiation laboratories analyzed multiple samples of drywall obtained by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Florida Department of Health.

Twenty-one samples were analyzed from homes and manufacturers of

drywall. Seventeen were obtained by CPSC from manufacturers and suppliers in multiple states, and four were obtained by FLDOH from homes exhibiting copper corrosion, odors and occupant complaints.

Results of the phosphogypsum testing showed levels that do not pose a radiation safety risk to families.

FLDOH's Radiation Laboratory and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory analyzed the samples for evidence of phosphogypsum contamination. Evaluation of the analysis by a federal and state technical team of scientists from CPSC, EPA, FLDOH, Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, and Virginia Department of Health has concluded that the samples had no elevated levels of radioactivity.

The levels were comparable to "background" levels found in soil, brick and concrete.

Federal and state scientists believe that imported and domestically-manufactured drywall associated with these samples does not pose a radiological concern to consumers.

Intensive investigative efforts to find answers and solutions to the drywall issue are

continuing on multiple tracks.

The CPSC statement was forwarded to the *Saipan Tribune* by CNMI consumer counsel Mike Ernest.

It was earlier reported that Saipan, Guam and American Samoa received 28,778 sheets of imported Chinese drywall in 2006 that the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission was investigating after being linked to 810 incident reports since July.

The imported drywall has been tied to corrosion of metal components, foil smells and complaints by homeowners of health issues, including headaches, respiratory problems and nosebleeds. Complaints about the tainted product first surfaced in Florida. **(PR)**

## 'NMI different from A. Samoa on minimum wage hike issue'

American Samoa's governor Togiola Tulafono has urged local residents to tell the U.S. Government Accountability Office team not to compare American Samoa to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The team is in American Samoa to study the impact of the federally mandated minimum wages increases on the two territories.

In his weekly radio address, Togiola said he has informed the Accountability team that American Samoa's economy, which is dependent mostly on the canneries, is very different to the CNMI's.

Togiola said CNMI is much closer to Asian countries with a big tourist market, but not American Samoa, whose tourism industry is not fully developed. **(RNZI)**



### BANK OF GUAM DONATION

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, fourth from right, receives a check for \$5,000 from Bank of Guam's assistant VP operations officer Tania David, third from left. Also in photo are NMC archivist Tony Goodbaad, BoG assistant VP credit officer Gus Palacios, Library Services director Martin Gerbens, Dean of Student Services Janice Tenorio, and CNMI Archives director Herbert Del Rosario.

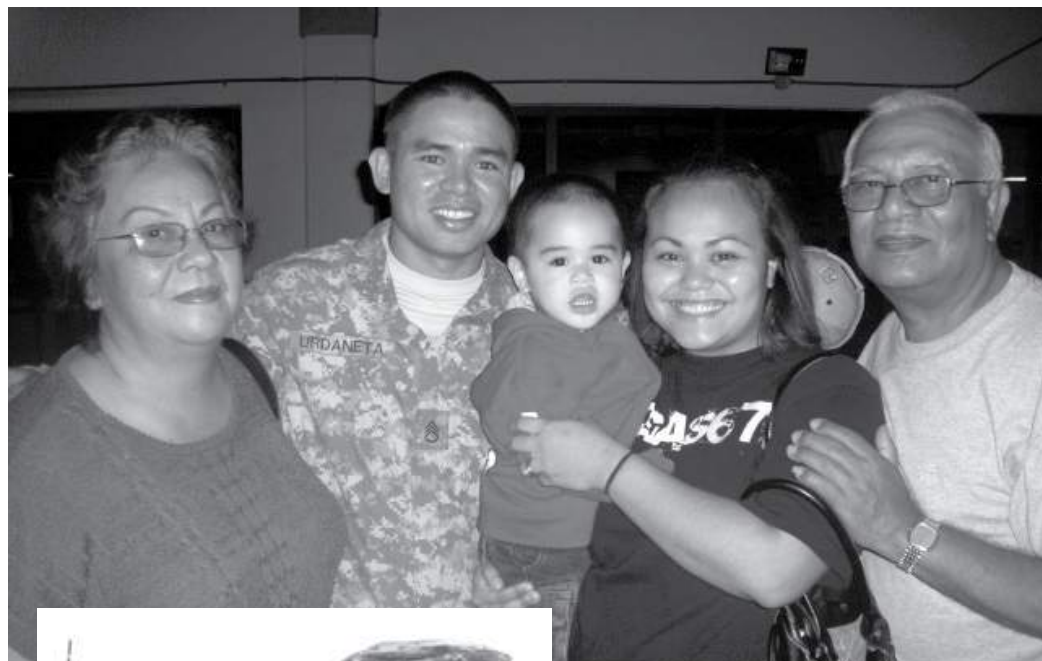
NMC



### KOREAN DANCE GROUP

Members of the Kim In Sook Ballet Company of South Korea perform a Johann Sebastian Bach number during their Saturday night performance at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Above, Happy 2nd birthday to Ayden Josiah Urdaneta! We love you and have a safe trip back to Hawaii! We will miss you! From your TinBod family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, Happy 2nd birthday to my son Ayden Josiah Urdaneta! "Whatcha doing? I love you and I'll be seeing you soon! Love, Daddy."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Right, happy birthday greetings go out to Fonz Tarope, who's celebrating his birthday today, Aug. 25, 2009. May God bless you, and may you have many more birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



### CNMI DELEGATE

Northern Mariana Islands student delegate Annabel Manzo, front right, is all smiles with her host family during the 21st Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka, Japan last month. Manzo, along with fellow Northern Marianas delegates Joseph M. Lizama, Jeffrey S. Centino, Thomas A. Manglona II, Benikina A. Lizama, Paulaine T. Sasamoto, and Annabel P. Manzon and chaperone Tasia Bocago of Marianas Visitors Authority, participated in the international event as guests of the convention.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to Jared Coby Carreon Villagoomez! We love you much! God bless, from Mommy, Daddy and Ate Alannah Mae.





# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XIX, Issue No. 202Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
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### EDITORIAL

## A detention mess

**T**he vast majority of foreigners locked up on civil immigration violations and awaiting deportation are neither criminals nor accused of any crime, but you'd never know it from the way they are treated.

Scattered across a network of 350 local and state jails, private, for-profit prisons and a handful of federal facilities, more than 30,000 detainees are held on any given day in conditions that range from adequate to dirty, deplorable and dangerous. The system, which houses five times the number of detainees it did in the early 1990s, is riddled with violations of the federal government's own standards for detention. It is an embarrassment for a nation that prides itself as a beacon of human rights.

Recognizing that the problems with the status quo are serious, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the agency that oversees the detention system, recently announced an overhaul. This was welcome news and a clear sign that the Obama administration would not continue the Bush administration's indifference. John Morton, the new director of ICE, said that the driving principle of the reform would be to create "a truly civil detention system" in which the federal government itself will build and manage some new facilities and professional monitors will be stationed permanently in others. We hope that at a minimum those steps will avert the worst abuses of the past, particularly instances in which health care for critically ill or injured detainees has been bungled or denied.

Another heartening move was the announcement that the government would immediately stop holding families at the 512-bed T. Don Hutto Family Residential Facility, a former state prison outside Austin where immigrant parents and their children were warehoused behind razor wire in shameful conditions.

Still, no one expects that the detention system, which is expected to hold 400,000 immigrants this year, is about to disappear or even shrink. To the contrary, although the Obama administration has curtailed the wholesale roundups of undocumented workers at factories, it is pressing ahead with other enforcement measures. So deportation proceedings and detentions on a large scale are likely to continue, at least until the country gets the sweeping immigration reform — including a path to citizenship for the millions of people still living in the shadows — that it needs.

In the meantime, we worry that the detention system overhaul, while welcome, does not go far enough to prevent abuses. In particular, the government has rejected proposals that it make its own standards for humane detention enforceable by allowing individual detainees and their advocates to seek relief in court.

The administration argues that it would be too time-consuming and unwieldy to formulate regulations governing such a huge detention; officials say that they are better off simply monitoring violations and insisting on compliance. But there is no better way to ensure compliance and make a sprawling bureaucracy accountable than promulgating clear regulations and allowing those governed by them their day in court. When that happens, then we'll know the country is on its way to establishing the sensible and humane detention system that the Obama administration says it wants.

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MAROULIES

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## The President and the 'necessary war' myth

**P**resident Obama recently defended American combat in Afghanistan as a "war of necessity," not a "war of choice." He borrowed this deceptively neat distinction from Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and author of a recent book on the subject. And proving how unhelpful it can be, Haass quickly corrected the president. No, Afghanistan is a "war of choice," he declaimed in The New York Times, "Mr. Obama's choice."

The president has walked into a murky swamp that is best avoided. There have been few if any clear-cut wars of necessity in America's history. Not the Revolution, where both the colonists and the British had other and, in the British case, better choices. Not the Civil War, which some historians still believe was an unnecessary and catastrophic spilling of American blood. (Slavery, they wrongly argue, would eventually have died of natural causes.) And never mind the war with Mexico, the Spanish-American War, the many interventions in Central America and the Caribbean, or, in the view of many, World War I.

Haass' own examples don't fit the bill either. He cites the Persian Gulf War as a "war of necessity," but as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Colin Powell, 48 members of the U.S. Senate and just about every self-described "realist" in the punditocracy argued at the time, the United States could have drawn the line at defending Saudi Arabia and tried to "contain" Saddam Hussein in Kuwait. A bad policy? Yes, and with all kinds of negative consequences for the Middle East and the world. But there also would have been many negative consequences had the United States not gone to war in 2003 and had Saddam Hussein remained in power these past six years.

Even the risk of a serious strategic setback does not automatically require going to war to prevent it. It partly depends on the cost. It would have been bad if the United States had not defended South Korea in 1950 — another of Haass' "necessary" wars — but it would not have been the end of the world, either. The United States and the West suffered far more from the Soviet Union's stationing of the Red Army across Eastern Europe after World War II, but no one, including Haass, claims it was necessary to go to war with Stalin in 1945.

The fact is, unless the nation is invaded or its very survival is imminently threatened, going to war is always a choice. So what is the point of trying to make this elusive distinction anyway? For many, including Obama, the present purpose is to

By ROBERT KAGAN

Special to The Washington Post

Robert Kagan is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



distinguish Afghanistan from Iraq, Obama's "good" war from George W. Bush's "bad" war. But it won't work. As Haass correctly argues, right or wrong, they were both wars of choice.

But there is a deeper reason, as well, for Obama to claim necessity in Afghanistan. It is part of what increasingly seems to be a striving for moral purity in international affairs by this administration. Obama and his top advisers apologize for America's past sins, implicitly suggesting they will commit no new ones. And that goes for fighting wars. No one can blame you for fighting a war if it is a war of necessity, or so they may believe. All the inevitable ancillary casualties of war — from civilian deaths to the occasional misbehavior of the troops to the errors of commanders — are more easily forgiven if one has no choice. The claim of necessity wipes away the moral ambiguities inherent in the exercise of power. And it prevents scrutiny of one's own motives, which in nations, as in individuals, are rarely pure.

This hoped-for escape from moral burdens is, however, an illusion. Just because America declares something necessary doesn't mean that the rest of the world, and especially its victims, will believe it is just. The claim of necessity will not absolve the United States, and Obama, from responsibility for its actions.

As Reinhold Niebuhr pointed out long ago, Americans find it hard to acknowledge this moral ambiguity of power. They are reluctant to face the fact that it is only through the morally ambiguous exercise of their power that any good can be accomplished. Obama is right to be prosecuting the war in Afghanistan, and he should do so even more vigorously. But he will not avoid the moral and practical burdens of fighting this war by claiming he has no choice. An action can be right or just without being necessary. Like great presidents in the past, Barack Obama will have to explain why his choice, while difficult and fraught with complexity, is right and better than the alternatives.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Dancing with the feds

By **JIM RAYPHAND**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Perhaps it is due to my general sense of optimism, though it felt more like a rookie mistake, that I attended a presentation about the implementation of federalization by no less than the regional director of Homeland Security expecting to get a straight answer. What I got instead was a mixed bag of well-choreographed and improvised dance moves designed to shake, rattle and roll around the issues. At best, I walked away knowing only that “federalization” means something will happen come Nov. 28, 2009. The truth, it seems, is that nobody (least of all any of us who actually live here) knows exactly how things will unfold.

I can’t say I wasn’t warned. Congressman Killili, who I know to be a cool, personable man of the islands, was visibly perturbed when referencing his dealings within the federal bureaucracy which, in his own words, has a way of dancing around a straight answer. “Ask the hard questions and don’t take no for an answer,” he said. I expect he is doing as much for us in Washington, D.C., but the fact remains that at this very moment there is an unnumbered gathering of cubby-holed Washingtonians crafting legal regulations that will dictate the who, what, where, why, and how our Commonwealth will be shaped in the very near future. Make no mistake, I am all for the implementation of federal immigration principles on our islands, but (like the good gentleman from the CNMI) am not inclined to accept regulatory mandates without practical and due considerations of, by and for the people of the CNMI.

## Obama’s birthplace hits the big five-0

Our Japanese American cousins always said behind our backs that we Hawaii cousins were 10 years behind the times. So when our home became a state in August 1959, it would logically follow that it took a while for our birth certificates to catch up. For a few years, this new state still issued Certificates of Hawaiian Birth. I was born on the island of Molokai—blink and you missed Kaunakakai, its port town, 1,000 residents on the whole island at the time, a pineapple, red-dirt-permanently-embedded-in-your-heels kind of place. It was a very provincial island in 1961, the birth year that President Obama and I share.

So as our state celebrates its 50th anniversary this weekend, the fuss over Obama’s birth certificate—its authenticity and what it might be hiding—has been kind of perplexing to me. The president’s mother is American. His father is Kenyan. Is he an anomaly because he is of American and Hawaiian and Kenyan heritage? Exotic? Because he’s from a state that isn’t a state because we aren’t on the mainland? Because he is from this provincial place that had been a state for only two years when he was born? For a few voices shouting loudly from the fringe, that has been enough reason to raise questions about whether he really is what he says he is.

Here, we have another question: Is Hawaii legally a state? Was the Kingdom of Hawai’i stolen? Some native Hawaiians say that, though Obama is American in the eyes of America, the real issue is that Hawaii is not a legitimate state in the union. We were a kingdom taken by force by the revolutionary Committee of Safety, which was backed by the U.S. Marines. Our queen was forced to abdicate her throne in 1893 to prevent bloodshed among her beloved subjects.

This makes Admission Day, as the statehood anniversary is sometimes known, more complicated. Robert Kanakaole Ebanes, one of the founders of the Hawaiian Independence Alliance, a sovereignty group, hasn’t been in a mood to celebrate statehood. Ebanes believes that the bickering over the president’s birth focuses on the wrong thing. To him, Obama is a legitimate Hawaiian citizen born after the “illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii.”

## Letter to the Editor

### Thank you

On behalf of the residents of Election District II, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation and Dangkolo na Si Yu’us Ma’ase to Division of Correction Commissioner Dolores San Nicolas, Capt. Georgia Cabrera, Sgt. Arnold Seman, Officers Ryan Kaipat, Leonard Ordenez, Stanley Ngircheungel, and most importantly, to the hardworking inmates for the launching of the Election District II “Road Shoulder-Intersection Cleanup Project.”

The project was initiated when the global economic crisis affected both public and private sectors, resulting in a reduction in budget

The reasoning is simple: What works for Dick may not work for Jane (and let’s say, in this case, that the Washingtonians are Dick and those of us who call the CNMI home are Jane; you see, the Jane I know does not want to Watch Dick Run or Dance for that matter—she wants to run and dance too). Put another way, the clickity-clackity shoe sounds of skinny Irish River dancers could be all the rage on the grand stages of the nation’s capital, but bring that to the sandy beaches of our beautiful islands and it’s nothing more

### CONTACT INFO

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than a silent cluster of sunburned white people kicking sand on each other. If we could get them to dance in the mellow moods of our tropical island beats, however, then we might not wake someday to find that our eyes are full of sand or that we’ve been left out in the rain—America is a big enough umbrella and we don’t always have to be the ones who end up getting wet.

But, Rain Dance aside, some point-blank questions demand a point-blank answer. For example, as the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities, the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems

Inc. has been asked if there is anything it could do about the immigration status of nonresident parents who have U.S. citizen children with disabilities. The notion is that because the children have disabilities, NMPASI ought to be advocating for an exemption or special immigration status for their parents so that they can stay in the CNMI and care for said children. The short answer from NMPASI has been a simple no—the mere coincidence of nonresident parents bearing U.S. citizen children with disabilities does not entitle them to an exempt immigration status. To be certain, though, the question was posed at the above referenced meeting, “Will there be any special status considerations given to nonresident parents of U.S. citizen children with disabilities?” Without missing a beat, the answer came as a “no...but” scenario which basically said that “no,” parents would not be entitled to any kind of special status, “but” there could be the possibility of a “deferred action” depending on who would be handling the matter. Again, I’m not too well-versed in the Federal Shuffle, but it seemed to me just another reinforcement of the over-arching message to anyone listening that something will happen when the federal government assumes control over immigration in the CNMI.

For more on the rights of individuals with disabilities, please feel free to contact the NMPASI office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] or 235-7278 [tty] or 235-7275 [fax] or check us out on-line at www.nmpasi.com.

*Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.*

By **LOIS-ANN YAMANAKA**

*Special to The Washington Post*

*Lois-Ann Yamanaka runs Na’au, a school for writers, in Honolulu. Her latest novel is Behold the Many.*



waii celebrities of all ethnicities spoke in prime-time television clips about their feelings on statehood. What they were doing at the time. How old they were—all good. None spoke about the injustices of the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. I didn’t hear a native Hawaiian perspective addressing the issues of that complicated, fierce and, some feel, utterly maltreated community. State money spent on marketing and promoting the 50th anniversary had in essence whitewashed some of the truth.

But we all manage to grin. Sit and share a meal at the same baby luau. Work, hang out, intermarry, meet for coffee, toast the day’s end with a Heineken Light. And, looking around, I think that when we celebrate—or mark the day somehow—again in 50 years, the balance we’ve struck here might not look so exotic to those watching from the mainland. It seems that all of America is progressing toward the mix we have here in Hawaii.

My sweetie wanted to take our stadium chairs to Iolani Palace on Admission Day to watch the sovereignty groups and activists speak out, maybe protest, chain themselves to the front gates, sit on centuries-old, delicate, threadbare thrones. Bring bento (lunch) and soda and take in the other points of view. He’s native Hawaiian and calls himself a liberal conservative. Right. This means he believes that native Hawaiians have sovereign rights, but we still live in the most blessed nation in the world. How liberally conservative of him.

Hawaii has come a long way in the past 50 years. There were a lot of us on the lawn of the royal palace with our coolers and goza (straw mats). A lot of us of many ethnicities. All of us with a black president from Hawaii.

allocation that hinders the public services of the agencies tasked in overseeing the maintenance of these sites.

The project (scheduled every Saturday) officially launched two weeks ago with Chalan Kanoa District I being the first beneficiary, and if it weren’t for Mother Nature’s untimely visit...again, the first phase of the project would have been 70 to 80 percent complete at the pace and the mentality these hardworking group incorporates into this worthy project. a

It is for this reason that we are requesting the residents of the other districts for their utmost understanding and patience, and that we are in the process in humbly requesting for the possibility for a twice a week schedule in hopes of addressing Mother Nature’s untimely visitation which has plagued the project’s progress.

We are also requesting and soliciting the cooperation and assistance of the landowners, and or occupants of properties whose area had been cleaned, or cleared of the overgrown grasses and brushes to please help us in maintaining follow-up to cooperatively combat this concern that constantly made the top list in our “Beautify CNMI” campaign. It is imperative that action be taken for not only will we be assisting in beautifying our community, we will also be addressing a safety concern for motorist and pedestrians.

Again, thank you and God bless.

**Rep. Raymond D. Palacios**  
**Rep. Oscar M. Babauta**



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86 ▼75
Palau	Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Yap	Rain	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲90 ▼81
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲88 ▼79

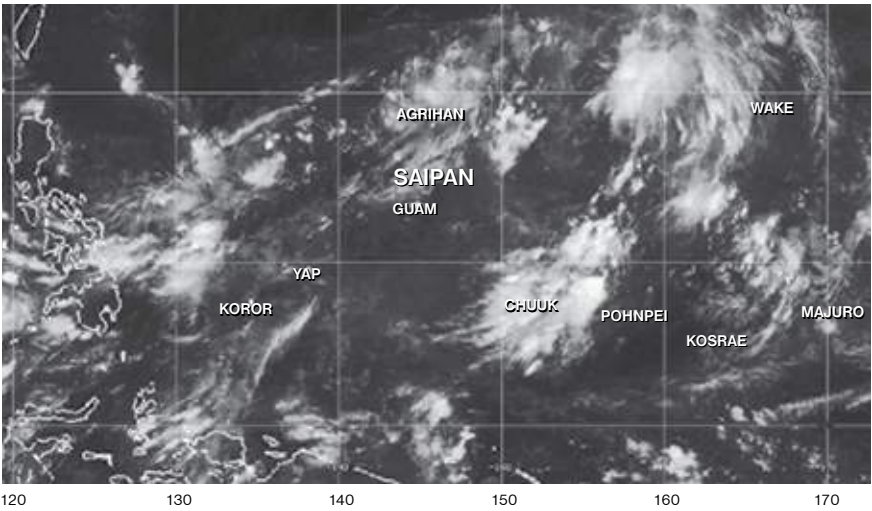
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63 ▼54
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲81 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85 ▼77
London	Cloudy	▲73 ▼58
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲82 ▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲55 ▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼80
New York	Sunny	▲86 ▼72
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲82 ▼68
Paris	Rain	▲69 ▼57
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲79 ▼64
Rome	Cloudy	▲87 ▼67
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲78 ▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72 ▼55
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲86 ▼68
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲83 ▼69
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲90 ▼71

### Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:16 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:27 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:51 PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 18N130E to a weak circulation centered west of the Marianas near 17N137E then continues northeastward to beyond 25N at 152E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring along the monsoon trough axis north of Yap within 100 miles of a line from 13N132E to 17N138E and over the CNMI between 15N and 22N from 144E to 153E. Converging west winds south of the monsoon trough are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror and Yap within an area bounded by a line from 10N138E to 9N132E to EQ130E to 8N138E back to 10N138E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms along the equator within an area bounded by a line from 3N145E to EQ139E to EQ150E back to 3N145E and over Pohnpei and near Chuuk between 6N and 10N from 152E to 159E. An upper-level trough extends southwestward from 22N180 through an upper-level low centered at 15N176E to end at 2N172E. Upper-level divergence near and southeast of the low is enhancing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with trade-wind convergence within an area bounded by a line from 16N180 to 15N165E to 8N168E to EQ165E to EQ172E to 10N180 back to 16N180. Convergent south winds are causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of Wake Island within an area bounded by a line from 25N162E to 23N159E to 19N162E to 25N163E back to 25N162E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:34 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:18 AM	9:59 PM
Wednesday	11:14 AM	10:45 PM
Thursday	12:09 PM	11:33 PM
Friday	1:03 PM	
Saturday	1:54 PM	12:24 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

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#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.  
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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)</b> C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7	<b>ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN</b> C09598 3:15am 3:50am 5, 6 C09312 1:20pm 1:55pm 6
<b>ROTA (ROP)-GUAM</b> C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7	<b>GUAM-ROTA (ROP)</b> C09598 2:10am 2:40am 5, 6 C09312 12:10pm 12:40pm 6
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM</b> C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5 C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>GUAM-SAIPAN</b> C09598 2:10am 3:50am 5, 6 via ROP C09316 2:20am 3:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 C09596 7:00am 7:50am Daily C09600 10:20am 11:10am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C09312 12:10pm 1:55pm 6 via ROP C09602 2:00pm 2:50pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> C0941 5:30am 8:05am Daily NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily NW78 9:00am 2:05pm Daily via NGO NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily C0943 5:25pm 8:00pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> C0942 9:25am 1:55pm Daily NW76 10:00am 2:35pm Daily NW77 6:35pm 1:40am+1 Daily via NGO NW100 8:45pm 1:20am+1 Daily C0944 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:55pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)</b> NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily	<b>NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN</b> NW77 9:10pm 1:40am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ605 9:00am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> CZ3007 7:30pm 2:40am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA</b> OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN OZ604/703 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA-SAIPAN</b> OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM OZ716/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6 via ICN
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG</b> OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/605 12:30am 2:30pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:10am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/603 1:15pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily							
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**</b>			
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
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- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## Global brands turn to China's young amid economic slump

**BEIJING (AP)**—In her Vans cap, Quiksilver shirt and Adidas shorts, 19-year-old Terry Zhong is a walking checklist of sports brands as she sets out on a weekly shopping trip with a 500-yuan (\$73) budget.

Global economic gloom has barely dented her willingness to spend.

"I don't think it has anything to do with me," Zhong said, striding through Beijing's bustling Xidan commercial district carrying bags from H&M and Zara.

Young Chinese shoppers like Zhong are still spending freely, and major brands ranging from Nike Inc. to Barbie doll maker Mattel Inc. are courting them eagerly to shore up revenue as demand elsewhere slumps.

"Many foreign brands are looking at China as a life vest," said Mary Bergstrom, founder of Bergstrom Trends, a youth-trend research company in Shanghai.

China has 200 million potential consumers aged 15 to 24, according to the national census bureau—a group nearly twice the size of Japan's entire population.

Their spending has been buttressed by China's resilience in the face of plunging exports and foreign invest-

ment. With the help of a 4 trillion yuan (\$586 billion) government stimulus plan, economic growth accelerated in the latest quarter to 7.9 percent over a year earlier, up from 6.1 percent the previous quarter. Retail spending rose 15 percent in the first half of 2009.

Young Chinese make especially attractive customers because "one child" birth limits and rising incomes mean many are only children with more disposable income. A 20-year-old might be living rent-free while getting money from two parents and four grandparents.

Major brands are expanding energetically in China and developing products and marketing aimed at young Chinese consumers.

Nike created lighter-weight basketball shoes for Asian players and a model dubbed the Nike Zoom Kobe IV Beijing in tribute to its pitchman Kobe Bryant's role on the gold medal-winning U.S. Olympic team.

In July, Beaverton, Oregon-based Nike flew Bryant, 2009 NBA Finals most-valuable player honoree, to the western city of Chengdu for a promotional event. He was greeted by thousands of young Chinese fans chanting "MVP! MVP! MVP!"



Richard Cheng of Plantation, Fla., left, looks at a new a Honda Odyssey minivan with salesman Freddy Beruvides at Rick Case Honda in Weston, Fla., Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

## Final weekend of clunkers program draws big crowds

By EMILY FREDRIX  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

From Vermont to California, exhausted but appreciative car dealers watched their lots grow empty as crowds rushed to trade in gas guzzlers during the final weekend of the popular Cash for Clunkers program.

The hectic pace of the \$3 billion rebate program accelerated in the final weekend, after the government announced the program would end at 8 p.m. EDT Monday, two weeks earlier than expected.

Adding to the urgency, some dealers had said they would stop Cash for Clunkers sales even earlier to make sure the government reimbursed them for the rebates—or because they didn't have enough eligible cars left.

In the final hours, customers streamed in.

"We thought about it a couple weeks ago," said Annette Palmer, 51, at Town and Country Honda in Berlin, Vt., on Saturday with her husband. They hoped

to trade in a 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee for a Honda CR-V.

"We kind of dragged our feet. Then we heard it was closing and we picked up our feet and ran," she said.

Though short of some new models, such as the Ford Focus, Honda Civic, Toyota Corolla and Nissan Altima, many dealers were still selling as many cars as they could before Monday night's deadline.

Standing outside one of his Hyundai dealerships in Appleton, Wis., John Bergstrom said customers traded in 100 clunkers throughout his fleet of 20 dealerships on Saturday and 100 the day before. They were his two biggest sales days during the clunkers program.

"That's about as good as it gets," Bergstrom said. "It's going out with a bang."

In all, Bergstrom said his dealerships—whose brands include Ford, GM and Toyota—sold 800 cars during the program, boosting sales 30 percent. He had to bring in extra staff to deal with the paperwork, but the sales were worth the hassle, Bergstrom said.

At Universal City Nissan in Los Angeles, Alberto Vasquez said keeping up with the pace of the program has taken a toll on employees. Some labored past midnight to wrap up last-minute deals.

"Are we tired? Definitely," said Vasquez, the dealership's director of training. "But it's also bitter-sweet, because we're happy that we're selling cars."

The dealership has sold more than 700 vehicles through the program and brought in extra staff to help enter information on the government's reimbursement Web site.

Cash for Clunkers has been wildly successful in spurring new-car sales and getting gas-guzzling models off the road, though some energy experts have said the pollution reduction is too small to be cost-effective. Customers receive rebates of between \$3,500 and \$4,500, depending on the improvement in fuel efficiency from their old vehicle to their new one. As of early Friday, nearly half a million cars had been sold through the program.



In this photo taken Aug. 21, 2008, Petrobras workers walk on platform 51 "Majuro" in Angra dos Reis, Brazil.

## Alternative energy powerhouse Brazil finds big oil

**RIODE JANEIRO (AP)**—Brazil, long proud of its push to develop renewable energy and wean itself off oil, has a bad case of fossil-fuel fever. An enormous offshore field in territorial waters—the biggest Western Hemisphere oil discovery in 30 years—has Brazilians saying, "Drill, baby, drill," while environmentalists fear the nation will take a big leap backward in its hunt for crude.

There has been virtually no public debate on the potential environmental costs of retrieving the billions of barrels of oil, a project one expert said will be as difficult as landing a man on the moon.

"The government is whipping Brazil into a euphoria that this is going to be a solution for all our societal problems," said Sergio Leitao, director of public policies for Greenpeace Brasil. "Brazil is no longer seriously looking at alternatives."

Home to the bulk of the Amazon rainforest, Brazil for decades has de-

veloped alternative energy as an issue of national security following severe energy shortages in the 1970s. It uses hydroelectric power for more than 80 percent of its energy needs, is the world's largest exporter of ethanol, and nine out of every 10 cars sold in the nation can run on ethanol or a combination of ethanol and gasoline.

A U.N. study found that in 2008, Brazil accounted for almost all of Latin America's renewable energy investment, to the tune of \$10.8 billion.

But since the national oil company Petroleo Brasileiro SA, or Petrobras, discovered the massive Tupi field off the coast of Rio de Janeiro two years ago—estimated to hold 5 to 8 billion barrels—it is the development of oil fields that has gone into overdrive.

Thirty years ago, more than 85 percent of Brazil's oil came from foreign sources. Today, it is a net exporter.

## Ind. money manager faces more trouble at home

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**—Authorities say the troubled Indiana money manager who tried to fake his own death in a plane crash to avoid financial ruin had built his investment businesses on the backs of people he knew—acquaintances, a friend of 10 years and even his own aunt.

But his clients didn't know he had sold them a nonexistent foreign currency fund, created false account information and used their money for personal expenses, investigators say.

Marcus Schrenker, 38, was sentenced Wednesday to more than four years in federal prison on charges stem-

ming from the Jan. 11 plane crash in Florida. But his legal problems are far from over—he faces 11 felony counts tied to his financial dealings in Indiana, and each carries a penalty of two to eight years in prison. Indiana authorities have not yet made arrangements to bring Schrenker back to Indiana, but they expect him within the next few weeks. Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita, whose office has been helping with the investigation, said Schrenker bilked friends and relatives out of about \$1 million.

"It is especially heinous, but unfortunately this is a classic case of what we call affinity fraud—fraud that's



Schrenker

committed upon us by those we've come to love and trust," Rokita said. "They're able to separate us from our money because of that special relationship."

Officials said Schrenker does not yet have an attorney in the Indiana cases but could be appointed a public defender once he's back in the state for a court appearance.



# Nation

## Millions face shrinking Social Security payments

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Millions of older people face shrinking Social Security checks next year, the first time in a generation that payments would not rise. The trustees who oversee Social Security are projecting there won't be a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for the next two years. That hasn't happened since automatic increases were

adopted in 1975.

By law, Social Security benefits cannot go down. Nevertheless, monthly payments would drop for millions of people in the Medicare prescription drug program because the premiums, which often are deducted from Social Security payments, are scheduled to go up slightly.

"I will promise you, they

count on that COLA," said Barbara Kennelly, a former Democratic congresswoman from Connecticut who now heads the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. "To some people, it might not be a big deal. But to seniors, especially with their health care costs, it is a big deal."

Cost of living adjustments

are pegged to inflation, which has been negative this year, largely because energy prices are below 2008 levels.

Advocates say older people

still face higher prices because they spend a disproportionate amount of their income on health care, where costs rise faster than inflation.

Many also have suffered from declining home values and shrinking stock portfolios just as they are relying on those assets for income.

## Hurricane Bill blamed in deaths in Maine, Fla.



People watch as water breaches a rock wall at Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia, Canada, Sunday, August 23, 2009. Hurricane Bill has brought a steady downpour to parts of Nova Scotia, along with curious onlookers hoping to catch a glimpse of crashing waves, as it continues its path into Atlantic Canada, the Canadian Hurricane Centre said Sunday.

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)**—A large wave fueled by Hurricane Bill swept a group of surf-watchers into the sea at a Maine park Sunday, including a 7-year-old girl who died after the Coast Guard pulled her from the churning waters.

The girl, her father and a 12-year-old girl who were all visiting Acadia National Park were plucked from the water by rescuers. The man and the 12-year-old were hospitalized.

The three were part of an early afternoon crowd of thousands who lined the national park's rocky shoreline to watch the high surf and crashing waves, which were "absolutely the effects of Hurricane Bill" coupled with the effect of high tide, park ranger Sonya Berger said.

The man and his daughter are from New York City, Acadia National Park Chief Ranger Stuart West said. The 12-year-old girl is from Belfast, Maine,

and is not related to them, West said. He would not release their names.

The hurricane was also blamed for the death of a 54-year-old swimmer Saturday in Florida. Volusia County Beach Patrol Capt. Scott Petersohn said Angel Rosa of Orlando washed ashore unconscious near rough waves fueled by Bill at New Smyrna Beach, along the central Florida coast. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

## Medical robot makes rounds at Texas Army hospital

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)**—Staff Sgt. Juan Amaris laid in intensive care recovering from life-threatening burns when he got a peculiar visit from his doctor. Dr. Kevin Chung—rather, a 5-foot-tall camouflage-clad robot with Chung's face on a monitor—rolled in to check on him.

With his proxy's cameras zooming and wireless antennas beaming, Chung stood in a kitchen in Virginia and examined Amaris from 1,500 miles away, providing a connection between doctor and patient even as Chung was on vacation.

Use of the robot began as an Army telemedicine pilot project several years ago. But its success in allowing Chung to check on patients while deployed and in training nurses far away means the Chungbot—as it's been nicknamed



In this Monday, Aug. 17, 2009 photo, Dr. Kevin Chung moves a medical robot, nicknamed the "Chungbot," into position to be re-charged, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

around Brooke Army Medical Center—is here to stay.

"It became so clinically use-

ful, it was no longer a research tool," said Chung, who oversees the Army's only burn ICU.

Using the robot allows Chung to examine wounds and interact with the patient, though someone else at the bedside takes vital signs and provides hands-on care at the doctor's instruction.

The robot arrived at Brooke three years ago after Chung sought grant funding to lease the device. Since then, he's checked on patients via robot from as far away as Baghdad.

One badly wounded soldier was brought here after Chung and others treated him in Iraq, and the staff in Baghdad wondered how he was doing. Instead of calling for an update from a doctor here, Chung was able to log in and roll the robot over to the patient with the Baghdad staff looking on.

## Obama facing hard choices on Afghanistan war plans

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—As public support for the war in Afghanistan erodes, President Barack Obama soon may face two equally unattractive choices: increase U.S. troops

levels to beat back a resilient enemy, or stick with the 68,000 already committed and risk the political fallout if that's not enough.

Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, is completing an assessment of what he needs to win the fight there. That review, however,



Obama

won't specifically address force levels, according to Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But military officials privately believe McChrystal may ask for as many as 20,000 additional forces to get an increasingly difficult security situation in Afghanistan under control. And one leading Republican is already saying McChrystal will be pressured to ask for fewer troops than he requires.

"I think there are great pressures on General McChrystal

to reduce those estimates," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., in an interview broadcast Sunday. "I don't think it's necessarily from the president. I think it's from the people around him and others that I think don't want to see a significant increase in our troops' presence there."

Mullen on Sunday described the situation in Afghanistan as "serious and deteriorating," but refused to say whether additional forces would be needed.

"Afghanistan is very vulnerable in terms of (the) Taliban and extremists taking over again, and I don't think that threat's going to go away," he said.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Air Force test fires missile from Calif. coast

**VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)**—The Air Force says it has successfully launched an unarmed Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missile from a California base, firing it to targets in the Pacific Ocean. Sgt. Benjamin Rojek said the ICBM was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 9:01 a.m. Sunday. He said it carried one unarmed re-entry vehicle that hit its target near the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, some 4,200 miles away. The Air Force said the launch was an operational test to check the weapon system's reliability and accuracy.

#### Insurance adjusters look at Ky. prison after riot

**BURGIN, Ky. (AP)**—Officials said Sunday that investigators and insurance adjusters have started probing what's left of a Kentucky prison in the wake of a fiery riot that injured 16 people and forced 700 inmates to be relocated. The damage assessment could take several days and a probe into what prompted Friday night's melee would likely start later in the week, Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet spokeswoman Jennifer Brislin said. Prisoners started some of the fires in trash cans, and flames eventually spread, shooting into the air during the riot.

#### Missouri woman donates kidney to her neighbor

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)**—Few things can be more neighborly than offering your kidney to a friend. Two Kansas City women have lived next door to each other for 30 years. But Claudine Jackson and Jo Ann Walz really got to know each other after Walz donated her kidney to Jackson. The two had always been friendly, but have grown much closer over the past three years as Walz helped with car rides to dialysis treatments, doctor's appointments and the grocery store. The kind act ended two years of waiting on a national kidney waiting list. Jackson moved onto Fuller Avenue in south Kansas City in 1977. Walz moved in next door about a year later.

#### ND's longest-serving inmate

#### paroled after 40 years

**BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)**—During the 40 years convicted murderer James LeRoy Iverson watched from his prison cell window, he saw a field transform from a nesting ground for geese to a Walmart Supercenter site. A week after being paroled as North Dakota's longest-serving inmate, the 70-year-old got his first look inside the Bismarck store. "I'd never been to a Walmart before—they have oodles and oodles of stuff in there," said Iverson, dressed in a crisp new blue jeans and shirt purchased from the retail giant. "It took me three hours to walk all the way around that place." Four decades after his 1969 conviction for strangling two women in Grand Forks, Iverson is among a growing number of senior parolees returning to communities nationwide.

#### Plane hit by 3 cars after Calif. freeway landing

**SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)**—Authorities say a small airplane was struck by three vehicles just after it made an emergency landing on a California freeway. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor says the Piper PA-24 Comanche with two people on board was bound for Santa Barbara Airport Sunday when the pilot told air traffic controllers he had no fuel remaining and landed on the southbound side of U.S. Highway 101, about one mile northeast of the airport. California Highway Patrol Officer James Richards says three cars were unable to avoid the plane and crashed into it. He says the occupants of the plane and the cars were not injured.

#### Sheriff: NC senator shoots intruder at his home

**TABOR CITY, N.C. (AP)**—A sheriff says North Carolina's longest serving state lawmaker has shot one of two intruders who kicked in the front door of his home. Columbus County Sheriff Chris Batten tells The Star-News of Wilmington that 74-year-old state Sen. R.C. Soles shot the man who was taken to a hospital. The SBI is investigating a man's claim that Soles tried to fondle him more than a decade ago when the man was a teenager. The accuser later said he made up the story. Soles has not been charged and denies the accusation. Soles has been in the General Assembly for 40 years.



# Asia

## Vote fraud allegations mount in Afghanistan

**KABUL (AP)**—The outcry over alleged vote fraud in Afghanistan's election escalated Sunday, with President Hamid Karzai's chief opponent charging that turnout figures were padded and the chief fraud investigator saying some of the allegations were serious enough to influence the outcome if true.

The controversy threatens to discredit an election that the Obama administration considers a key step in a new strategy to turn back the Taliban insurgency. It could also delay formation of a new government and fuel growing doubts in the United States about whether its worth continuing to fight the war in Afghanistan.

Millions of Afghans voted Thursday in the country's second-ever direct presidential election, although Taliban threats and attacks appeared to hold down the turnout, especially in the south where support for Karzai is strong.

Final certified results will not

come until next month although partial preliminary figures are expected Tuesday. If none of the 36 candidates wins a majority, the top two finishers will face a runoff in October.

Karzai's top challenger, former Foreign Minister Abdullah, widened allegations of fraud against Karzai and his government Sunday, saying ballots marked for the incumbent were coming in from volatile southern districts where no vote was held, and that turnout was being reported as 40 percent in areas where only 10 percent of voters cast ballots.

"This is a sign or evidence of widespread rigging," said Abdullah, who draws his strength from the Tajik minority in the north.

Abdullah said a border security commander in the Spin Boldak district of southern Kandahar province, Gen. Abdul Raziq, used his house as a polling station and stuffed the ballot box for Karzai. Other



An election worker counts vote at the the Independent Election Commission in Kabul , Afghanistan, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

polling sites were in border police posts that Raziq controls, Abdullah said.

Another presidential candidate has displayed mangled ballots that he said were cast for him in Spin Boldak and then thrown out by election workers.

Raziq denied the charges, saying that everyone in Spin Boldak voted in the appointed polling centers, which were schools and mosques. He said he and his border police were busy maintaining security and did nothing to tamper with the process.

"They are just spreading propaganda, the people who are saying there was fraud," Raziq said. "If there is any proof of it, please show me."

Abdullah said he hoped fraud would be prevented through legal appeals with the electoral complaints commission. But he also said he had no faith in the chief of the Afghan Independent Election Commission, a Karzai appointee.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### China drought leaves 5 million short of water

**BEIJING (AP)**—A drought in China's north has left nearly 5 million people short of drinking water and damaged crops, while dry weather in the south could cause more shortages, a state news agency reported Sunday. The drought has caused water shortages for 4.6 million people and 4.1 million head of livestock, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing an announcement by the national anti-drought administration. Affected areas stretch from Jilin province in the northeast to the grasslands of Inner Mongolia in the north and the drought is spreading, Xinhua said, citing an administration official, Zhang Xu. Crops on some 22 million acres (8.7 million hectares) of farmland have been damaged, the report said.

#### China legal activist freed, but may face tax case

**BEIJING (AP)**—An activist Chinese lawyer who was detained in a possible crackdown on dissent ahead of October's 60th anniversary of Communist rule was released Sunday, but he said authorities were investigating possible tax charges against him. Xu Zhiyong co-founded a Beijing legal aid group that has tackled some of China's most politically sensitive cases, most recently representing parents of children sickened last year by chemical-tainted milk. Xu was detained July 29 and formally arrested Aug. 12 on charges of evading taxes. Xu has been at the forefront of legal reform and public interest law in China, and

has been a visiting scholar at Yale Law School in the United States several times.

#### Pakistan Taliban commander vows Afghan fight

**MAKEEN, Pakistan (AP)**—Pakistani Taliban fighters are committed to helping the fight in Afghanistan and consider Barack Obama their "No 1 enemy," a top commander said amid uncertainty Sunday about whether a new leader has been appointed to head the movement. Waliur Rehman made the remarks in an interview with the Associated Press at a time of intense speculation over the next leader of the al-Qaida-allied group. A CIA missile strike on Aug. 5 is believed to have killed former chief Baitullah Meshsud. Rehman, a cousin of Baitullah, is seen as a strong candidate for the post.

#### Suicide bomb in Pakistani city of Peshawar kills 3

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—Authorities say a suicide bombing on the outskirts in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar has killed three people and wounded 15 others. Peshawar police Chief Safwat Ghayur says the suicide bomber also died in Sunday's attack. Ghayur says the bombing appears to be the result of a fight between two militant groups. Zakir Ullah, a police official at the scene, says two men exchanged gunfire in the street shortly before the bomber detonated his explosives. Television footage showed several wounded people, including at least two children, being treated at a local hospital.

## Dispute threatens talks to end Filipino rebellion

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A planned resumption this week of talks on ending one of Asia's longest communist rebellions will likely be called off due to a dispute over a rebel demand for the release of jailed comrades, a Philippine official and the rebels said Sunday.

Peace talks collapsed in 2004 after the communist New People's Army blamed the government for its inclusion on U.S. and European lists of terrorist groups. A Norwegian-brokered meeting in June led to an agreement to resume talks Friday in Oslo.

The rural-based rebellion to create a Marxist state has claimed about 120,000 lives and has been blamed by the government for stunting economic growth. Rebel assaults have continued despite efforts to revive the peace talks.

Presidential adviser on the peace process Avelino Razon Jr. said the scheduled talks may no longer take place after rebel negotiators insisted on the release of several guerrillas and the dropping of criminal charges against two others—demands he said the government could

not immediately grant.

"It's unlikely the talks will take place as scheduled," Razon said. "We cannot subvert our legal process."

Rebel consultant Jose Maria Sison said the Philippine government reneged on an agreement forged in June to either release from detention or drop "trumped-up" criminal charges against about 14 guerrillas who were to serve as consultants in the talks.

The government "has rendered extremely difficult or even impossible the resumption of formal talks," Sison, who founded the

Communist Party of the Philippines, said in a statement.

The Philippine government last month renewed an agreement, suspended in 2005, shielding 87 guerrillas from arrest and criminal prosecution while involved in the talks. However, Razon said the agreement was not a license for the government to free detained rebels or drop criminal charges against others.

Sison also condemned the government for agreeing to release a suspected rebel, Randall Echanis, for only six months, "making him a hostages consultant," he said.

## Islamic officials release woman held for caning

**KARAI, Malaysia (AP)**—Islamic officials Monday abruptly released a Muslim model scheduled to be caned this week for drinking beer after briefly detaining her, in an unexpected twist for Malaysia's first woman to face the corporal punishment.

Two female and one male officials came to the house of Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno in northern Malaysia on Monday and took her away in a van on what was supposed to be a four-hour road journey to a prison near Kuala Lumpur, the country's main city.

But they returned after about 30 minutes and said they had received "instructions from the higher powers" to release her, said Kartika's father, Shukarno Abdul Muttalib. The officials said that "for now, the sentence cannot be carried out," Shukarno said.

Officials had said earlier that Kartika, a 32-year-old mother of two, would be caned sometime during the week but no specific date was set. Amnesty International had condemned the decision, and many critics had said



Muslim model Kartika Sari Dewi Shukarno, 32, left, who will be caned for drinking beer, is embraced by supporters before she is taken away by Islamic religious officers at her father's home in Karai, 200 kilometers (124 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Monday, Aug. 24, 2009.

the caning would harm Malaysia's reputation as a moderate Muslim country.

It was not immediately clear whether Kartika would be taken back into custody later.

Badaruddin Ahmad Bustami, an Islamic Department official, said prison representatives suddenly informed department au-

thorities who took custody of Kartika that they "cannot accept her." He said the prison did not give any reasons.

"We don't know what to do. We will discuss this with the Shariah court" to determine whether the sentence should be waived, Badaruddin told The Associated Press.

## Rare tiger killed, body stolen from Indonesian zoo

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—A group of thieves killed an endangered tiger in an Indonesian zoo and stole most of its body, zoo officials said Sunday, a theft police suspect was motivated by the animal's valuable fur and bones.

The remains of the female Sumatran tiger were found by staff Saturday at the Taman Rimba Zoo in Jambi province on Sumatra island, said zoo director Adrianis, who like many Indonesians uses only one name.

"It was sadistic," Adrianis said of the attack. "The killers left only its intestines in the cage." Posma Lubis, lead detective for the Jambi police department, said they were searching for the perpetrators.

It was unclear how the thieves broke into the zoo or how many were involved.



## World

## Thousands flee raging wildfires in Greece

**ATHENS, Greece** (AP)—A partial drop in gale-force winds early Monday offered hard-pressed Greek firefighters a brief respite after wildfires raged unchecked for two days north of Athens, burning houses and swathes of forest while forcing thousands to flee their homes.

But Fire Brigade officials cautioned that the fires still threatened inhabited areas on the capital's northern fringes, the eastern coastal town of Nea

Makri and nearby Marathon—site of one of history's most famous battlegrounds.

"There are fewer hazardous points," Fire Brigade spokesman Yiannis Kappakis said. "But the blaze is still developing."

Several houses were gutted but there were no reports of deaths or injuries. There was huge damage to the countryside, however, with thousands of hectares of the area's rapidly dwindling forests gone.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said the fire—one of more than 90 that broke out across Greece over the weekend—was hard to tame.

"The situation remains very difficult," he said after a fire brigade briefing. "The enormous (firefighting) effort will continue on all fronts throughout the night."

In Nea Makri, south of Marathon, local authorities said blaze stretching for 2.5-miles (four-

kilometers) was tearing down a hillside towards some houses, and a dozen nuns were evacuated from a nearby Christian Orthodox convent.

"The situation is tragic right now, there's a huge fire coming our way" Nea Makri mayor Iordanis Loizos said. "There is nothing we can do ... but wait for the (water-dropping) planes at dawn."

Water-dropping aircraft were to resume operations at

first light Monday, assisted by aircraft from France, Italy and Cyprus. More than 2,000 firefighters, soldiers and volunteers are fighting the blaze on the ground.

Officials have not said what

started the fire. Hundreds of forest blazes plague Greece every summer and many are set intentionally—often by unscrupulous land developers or animal farmers seeking to expand their grazing land.

## Beetles, wildfire: Double threat in warming world

**HAINES JUNCTION, Yukon Territory** (AP)—A veil of smoke settled over the forest in the shadow of the St. Elias Mountains, in a wilderness whose spruce trees stood tall and gray, a deathly gray even in the greenest heart of a Yukon summer.

"As far as the eye can see, it's all infested," forester Rob Legare said, looking out over the thick woods of the Alsek River valley.

Beetles and fire, twin plagues, are consuming northern forests in what scientists say is a preview of the future, in a century growing warmer, as the land grows drier, trees grow weaker and pests, abetted by milder winters, grow stronger.

Dying, burning forests would then only add to the warming.

It's here in the sub-Arctic and Arctic—in Alaska, across Siberia, in northernmost Europe, and in the Yukon and elsewhere in northern Canada—that Earth's climate is changing most rap-

idly. While average temperatures globally rose 0.74 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) in the past century, the far north experienced warming at twice that rate or greater.

In Russia's frigid east, some average temperatures have risen more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), with mid-winter mercury spiking even higher. And "eight of the last 10 summers have been extreme wildfire seasons in Siberia," American researcher Amber J. Soja pointed out by telephone from central Siberia.

Along with shrinking the polar ice cap and thawing permafrost, scientists say, the warming of the Arctic threatens to turn boreal forest—the vast cover of spruce, pine and other conifers blanketing these high latitudes—into less of a crucial "sink" absorbing carbon dioxide and more of a source, as megatons of that greenhouse gas rise from dead, burning and decaying wood.



AP

A soldier uses a spade to fight flames, in Agios Stephanos, a suburb north of Athens, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

## Godmothers rise among Naples crime syndicate

**NAPLES, Italy** (AP)—They go by such nicknames as "Fat Cat" and "Tomboy." Their simmering power struggles once drove them into the streets, guns blazing. They rule their crime families with steely determination, and also raise the kids and stir the pasta.

Move over, Don Corleone. Godmothers are rising in the ranks of the Camorra, the Naples' area crime syndicate.

Women have long played a strong role in Camorra crime families, muscling, sometimes murdering, their way to the top. Their influence stretches back as far as the 1950s when a pregnant former beauty queen dubbed "pupetta" (little doll) shot dead the man who had ordered a hit on her husband, and allegedly settled into a life of crime.

Now, as the state steps up its war against the Camorra, rounding up scores of mobsters, the women are increasingly taking over the helm from their men.

"There is a growing number of women who hold executive roles" in the Camorra, Gen. Gaetano Maruccia, commander of the Carabinieri paramilitary

police in the Naples area, told The Associated Press.

"They are either widows (of mob bosses) or wives of husbands who have been put in prison. They hold the reins."

Mothers, daughters, sisters and sisters-in-law are "assuming ever-more leading roles," Stefania Castaldi, a Naples-based prosecutor who investigates organized crime, said in an interview.

This family dimension of the Camorra finds its echo in

mainstream Italian society—a family often will entrust its business to a woman relative rather than an outsider.

Camorra women still perform the more "traditional" roles of cutting and repackaging cocaine and heroin in their kitchens or tidying up the hideouts of fugitive bosses, but others are wielding power on the streets. They shake down merchants in extortion rackets and increasingly direct drug trafficking worth millions of dollars, Castaldi said.



AP

In this May 27, 2009 photo, Luisa Terracciano, wife of arrested clan boss Pasquale Carotenuto, is taken in custody by Carabinieri military police in the outskirts of Naples, southern Italy.

## Iraqi suspect: It cost \$10,000 to pass checkpoints

**BAGHDAD** (AP)—Attackers paid \$10,000 to get a bomb-laden truck past checkpoints and next to the Iraqi Finance Ministry in last week's attacks, one of the suspected masterminds said in a confession broadcast Sunday.

Seeking to fend off widespread criticism over security lapses, the Iraqi military released what it said was the confession of a Sunni man it identified as the planner of one of the two suicide truck bombings targeting government buildings in Baghdad.

Iraqi lawmakers and other senior officials have traded blame and called for investigations into how the bombers were able to get the explosives-packed trucks so close to government institutions in the heart of the capital.

Maj. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, the chief military spokesman for Baghdad, said the man was a senior member of Saddam Hussein's ousted Baath Party who had confessed to supervising the attack against the Finance Ministry before his lawyer

and the chief prosecutor.

Wednesday's twin bombings, which also devastated the Foreign Ministry, have battered Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's efforts to portray himself as a champion of security before January's parliamentary elections and the government has been eager to assert control over the investigation, announcing arrests but giving few details.

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, said he was extremely concerned by the attacks.

## Egyptians who overpowered pirates return home

**SUEZ, Egypt** (AP)—A group of Egyptian fishermen who were kidnapped by pirates off the Somali coast four months ago and managed to overpower their captors sailed home to a hero's welcome Sunday, but some details of their dramatic escape remained a mystery.

Wearing brand new tracksuits, the nearly three dozen fishermen disembarked in the port city of Suez into the waiting arms of hundreds of relatives and friends, as traditional

Egyptian drummers and dancers performed in the background. One mother fainted from the joy of seeing her son return.

"We were very sad, and I was crying for the past months," said 21-year-old Nagwa Ibrahim, who was at the port with her young son to welcome home her husband. "Now we are so excited, and I just can't believe that he will be back with us."

The fishermen, whose two vessels were hijacked in the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden,

spoke freely of how harrowing the experience had been, but were cagey about exactly how they managed to overpower their captors and seize eight of them, who they brought back to Egypt to stand trial.

"There were days we didn't think we'd survive," said Syed Sobhi, a 20-year-old fisherman from Kafr el-Sheik, 110 miles (180 kilometers) north of Cairo. "We were so humiliated and went to sleep hungry every day."



# Overdrive



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2010 Chevrolet Equinox LT looks better than its chief compact crossover utility vehicle rivals, and it has more standard equipment for the money, including the OnStar emergency telecommunications system.

## 2010 CHEVROLET EQUINOX LT Compact crossover is ticket to GM renewal

By WARREN BROWN  
THE WASHINGTON POST

### NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN  
THE WASHINGTON POST

#### COMPLAINT

GM needs better textures in its mainstream vehicle interiors. Too much of the stuff in the new Equinox—around the ignition lock, for example—feels like the hard plastic that it is.

#### RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

It gets an “excellent” mark in all three performance areas in the four-cylinder, compact crossover utility segment. The new Equinox is so much better than its so-so predecessor it makes me wonder whether it should have come to market with a new name.

#### HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

It's best in class.

#### BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Equinox is a compact, front-engine crossover utility vehicle with four side doors and a rear liftgate. It is available with

front-wheel-drive or all-wheel-drive.

#### ENGINES/TRANSMISSION

The tested 2.4-liter, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder engine develops 182 horsepower at 6,700 revolutions per minute and 174 foot-pounds of torque at 4,800 revolutions per minute. It is linked to a six-speed automatic transmission. An optional 3-liter, 264-horsepower V-6 is available.

#### TECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

The OnStar emergency communications system is hard to beat. Optional equipment includes a high definition, rearview-backup camera screen incorporated in the rearview mirror.

#### CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Cargo capacity is 31.4 cubic feet with the rear seats raised and 64 cubic feet with those seats lowered. The four-cylinder Equinox can be equipped to carry a maximum payload, onboard weight, of 1,190 pounds and tow a trailer weighing 3,500 pounds.

#### MILEAGE

Lightly loaded and strictly observing posted speed limits, I averaged 25.5 miles per gallon in city-highway driving, with most of that driving being on the highway.

#### SAFETY

Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes, four-wheel antilock braking protection, electronic brake force distribution, electronic stability and traction control, side and head air bags.

#### PRICE

The base price on the LT2 is \$25,445. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$24,046. Price as tested is \$26,740, including \$1,295 in options (audio system with rear entertainment). Dealer's price as tested is \$25,186. Prices are sourced from Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

#### PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

If you are shopping for a compact crossover utility vehicle and you fail to check out this one, you are cheating yourself.

The plug-in electric Chevrolet Volt is fascinating. But it isn't the product that will revive General Motors.

That task will fall to substantially more affordable and accessible models, such as this week's subject vehicle, the 2010 Chevrolet Equinox LT.

The Equinox, a compact crossover utility vehicle, is in a brutally competitive segment occupied by the likes of the Honda CR-V, Toyota Rav4 and the increasingly popular Nissan Rogue. It is the money zone of today's U.S. automobile market—the place that families and empty nesters are turning to for mobile utility, comfort, reliability, safety, infotainment and fuel economy.

Put another way, the segment for compact crossover utility models—today's station wagons—is the middle class on wheels. Where it goes largely will determine the direction of the automobile industry ... and the success or failure of the new General Motors.

I've long been a strong GM supporter. I've backed GM because I've spent 25 years studying the company. I know its many and well-reported flaws. I also know its many and largely underreported strengths.

Chief among GM's strengths is the creativity of its people. GM's biggest error was squandering that asset in pursuit of market share via cost cutting in vehicle design and production, and then dumping the resulting dross on the market with sales incentives.

GM nearly 15 years ago chose to end that foolishness and rededicate itself to designing and producing quality vehicles. But that decision had a hellacious time, including a quick trip through bankruptcy, becoming rubber-on-road reality. Despite the recent introduction of top-notch competitive products—cars such as the Cadillac CTS and Chevrolet Malibu—the new GM struggled to emerge from the punishing, negative perceptions of the old.

But it's time for those old perceptions to be put aside. Anyone doubting that should take a drive in the new Chevrolet

Equinox. Then journey to your Honda, Toyota and Nissan dealers and take comparison drives in the Honda CR-V, Toyota Rav4 and Nissan Rogue.

I've driven all four models. My assessment:

■ The new Equinox looks better than its three rivals inside and out. Overall interior layout is the best, especially in the presentation of climate, sound and hazard-warning controls on the center-mounted instrument console.

■ Honda has the best cabin materials in reference to the texture of vinyl and other materials on items such as instrument panels.

■ The new Equinox has more standard equipment for the money, including the OnStar emergency telecommunications system, which could be a lifesaver in a crash. In my book, that also means the new Equinox has the best overall safety in the compact crossover utility segment.

■ All four rivals driven for this column were equipped with four-cylinder engines, although both GM and Toyota offer optional V-6 power plants in their compact crossovers. But among the four-cylinder jobs, the Equinox offers the best combined city-highway fuel economy at 26 miles per gallon.

■ The Honda CR-V arguably has the best vehicle handling, the way it tracks around curves and precision displayed in changing lanes at high speeds. But the Equinox is pretty close behind the CR-V, topping the Toyota Rav4 and acing the Nissan Rogue.

■ Utility, or the ability to handle and carry loads, for all four models is comparable. You can load them and go. But their compact size allows you to park them with relative ease in the city, too.

Comparing the Equinox with its Japanese rivals is something I would not have dreamed of doing years ago. Back then, the Equinox was far behind the CR-V and Rav4.

That was then. This is now. If you are shopping for a compact crossover utility model and you fail to give the new Equinox an open-minded review, you are cheating yourself.

## Grants aim to rev alternative vehicle technology

By JEFF KAROUB  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

**DETROIT (AP)**—President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and other administration officials recently took to separate stages nationwide to announce \$2.4 billion in federal grants to develop next-generation electric vehicles and batteries.

It was dramatic way for the president's team to jump start the biggest bet yet on a future free from—or at least far less dependent on—fossil fuels. Biden made the case from the home of the hard-hit U.S. auto industry.

“The ultimate success of electric cars relies on better batteries, better drive-trains, reducing carbon emissions, making alternative energy more available,” Biden told a crowd of about 300 in Detroit outside NextEnergy, a nonprofit that works with businesses on research involving alternative and renewable energy.

“If we fail to invest, virtually none of that market will be in the U.S. ... We have a tremendous opportunity here—right here in Detroit—to invest in our vehicle fleet, shifting toward electrification.”

The grants will be split among nearly 50 projects in 25 states, with the biggest shares going to Indiana and Michi-

gan to create job opportunities in the automotive industry.

Recipients include Johnson Controls Inc., of Milwaukee, \$299 million to build battery packs and cells for hybrid vehicles at a facility in Holland, Michigan; General Motors Co., \$241 million to produce battery packs and develop electric drive vehicles in Michigan and Maryland; and Ford Motor Co., \$92.7 million for electric drive components at plants in Michigan and Missouri.

The administration calls it the single largest investment in advanced battery technology for hybrid and electric-drive vehicles ever made.

The \$2.4 billion is divided into the following areas:

■ \$1.5 billion to the production of batteries and their components.

■ \$500 million for other components needed for the cars, like electric motors.

■ \$400 million toward buying plug-in hybrid cars for test demonstrations, install an electric charging network and training for technicians and related costs.

An Arizona-based company working with Nissan Motor Co. is getting nearly \$100 million to supply chargers for electric vehicles. Electric Transportation Engineering Corp., a subsidiary of ECOTality Inc., has a deal with the Japanese automaker to provide private and public

charging stations as 5,000 Nissan plug-in electric vehicles launch in 2010.

ECOTality President and CEO Jonathan Read said the initiative will be the “largest rollout of electric charging stations and electric vehicles.”

Still, with the massive R&D effort comes hurdles, and the biggest one is cost.

The lithium-ion battery would be the heart of the electric car—the new gasoline, if researchers can make it work. You can make a lithium-ion battery and put it a car right now, but the battery alone would run you about \$40,000.

The race now is to slash costs for mass production, and they're coming down.

The nickel-metal hydride batteries used now in cars like the Toyota Prius must still be paired with a combustion engine. Hydride batteries can give you short bursts of power. Lithium-ion can store more energy, but it's still more delicate and heat is more of a problem.

Don Hillebrand, director of the Transportation Research Center at Argonne National Laboratory, calls nickel-metal hydride a power battery, while lithium-ion is an energy battery.

And the way the government has approached the research is smart, he said, issuing grants to dozens of companies.

“This means the ability to make these



AP

In this May 29, 2009 file photo released by Ford Motor Co., Chairman Bill Ford is interviewed with a Ford Focus Battery Electric Vehicle during the 2009 Mackinac Policy Conference in Mackinac Island, Mich. Ford Motor Co. on Tuesday, Aug. 18 said its future electric cars will “talk” to power grids across the country, part of an effort to drive interest in alternative energy vehicles.

batteries is going to come from all over the country,” said Hillebrand. “There are different techniques from different companies. This is going to mean billions of dollars of dollars over 20 years and you are creating and industry.”

Gerald Meyers, a University of Michigan business professor and former chairman of American Motors Corp., said the grants are appropriate and not excessive when compared with other government expenditures.

“This is the province of government if there ever was one—apply the brains to commercialize or at least develop the

state of the art to the point where it will be useful to commerce,” he said.

Dow Chemical Co. Chairman and CEO Andrew Liveris was in Detroit for the announcement. A Dow joint venture called Dow Kokam received a \$161 million grant to build a lithium polymer battery technology manufacturing plant in Dow's home of Midland, Michigan.

Creating what he called “a completely new market segment” is difficult but necessary to curb carbon emissions and revitalize U.S. manufacturing.

“The country is being re-engineered,” he said.



## Life &amp; Style

## Autistic teens master social cues, find friends

By ALICIA CHANG  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

**L**OS ANGELES (AP)—Thirteen-year-old Andrea Levy ticked off a mental list of rules to follow when her guest arrived: Greet her at the door. Introduce her to the family. Offer a cold drink.

Above all, make her feel welcome by letting her choose what to do.

"Do you want to make pizza now or do you want to make it later?" the lanky, raven-haired teen rehearsed in the kitchen, as her mother spread out dough and toppings.

This was a pivotal moment for Andrea, a girl who invited just one acquaintance to her bat mitzvah.

Andrea has autism, and socializing doesn't come naturally. For the past several weeks, she's gone to classes that teach the delicate ins and outs of making friends—an Emily Post rules of etiquette for autistic teens.

For Andrea, this pizza date is the ultimate test.

The bell rings. The door opens. Can she remember what she needs to do?

More important, will she make a friend?

Even for socially adept kids, the teen years, full of angst and peer pressure, can be a challenge. It's an especially difficult time for kids with autism spectrum disorders, an umbrella term for a range of poorly understood brain conditions—from the milder Asperger's syndrome to more severe autism marked by lack of eye contact, poor communication and repetitive behavior such as head-banging.

An estimated 1 in 150 American children has some form of autism. There's no known cure. Some research suggests autistic kids who get help early can overcome some of their deficits. But the social skills they learn as a toddler may not be so useful to a teen.

"A lot of our kids need a tune-up. They need new skills to help them survive in their new social world," said clinical psychologist Elizabeth Laugeson of the University of California, Los Angeles, who runs a 3 1/2-month friendship program for high-functioning autistic teens like Andrea.

Growing up, Andrea hardly had friends at all. They either moved away or grew tired by her inability to emotionally connect.

When she was 18 months old, her parents noticed something was amiss. Instead of babbling, she would cry or scream to get attention. She had no desire to play, even with her older brother.

Some doctors said not to worry; others thought she had a speech impairment.

None of the answers made sense to Andrea's parents until two medical experts, including a pediatrician who specialized in developmental disorders, diagnosed her as autistic.

"We try and help her make friends, but she's always a step behind her peers," said her mother, Gina Levy.

In some respects, Andrea is a typical teenage girl who is crazed about celebrity gossip magazines, romance novels, drama and chorus. But she can be withdrawn and doesn't always get the subtleties of body language and other nonverbal signs.

Whenever she gets stuck in a conversation, she tends to stare, making people around her uncomfortable. She doesn't mean to be impolite—it's just her way of watching and learning.

"I know I'm weird and I know I'm not normal," said Andrea, who looks like a young Anne Hathaway with braces. "I've always known I'm not normal."

Andrea found company from nine other high-functioning autistic teens who enrolled in a 14-week friendship boot camp earlier this year. More than 100 teens have graduated from the UCLA Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills, or PEERS for short, which costs \$100 a session and is covered by many insurers.

Unlike other autism interventions, parents also must participate. They learn to become social coaches for their children so that their new skills can be retained when the program is over.



In this handout photo courtesy of the Levy family, Andrea Levy is shown on her third birthday, Dec. 5, 1998.

Every week, Laugeson, a peppy clinical psychologist known as "Dr. Liz," leads the students through a maze of social survival skills: how to have a two-way conversation, how to trade information to find common interests, how to gracefully enter a conversation and how to be a good host. In class, the teens role-play with one another and also must practice what they've learned outside of class in weekly homework assignments.

Laugeson peppers the lessons with friendly reminders about proper etiquette:

"Don't be a conversation hog."

"Give a cover story for why you are calling."

"Don't be an interviewer."

"Say you're sorry when you make



In this June 10, 2009 photo, from left, Andrea Levy, 13, Elias Cazares Jr., 13, and Hadiya Allen, 13 practice cooperation and good sportsmanship by playing a game during PEERS class at the University of California, Los Angeles in Los Angeles. The 14-week course helps autistic teens build social skills.

someone angry, sad or upset."

"You need to trade information at least 50 percent of the time during the get-togethers."

Earlier this year, Laugeson published a study in the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders on how the parent-involved training has worked so far. In a study of 33 autistic teens, those who went through the program had more friends come to their houses than those who did not.

"There isn't much research on social group training that incorporates parents. That's a key factor for success," said Barbara Becker-Cottrill, who heads the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University. She has no connection with PEERS, but has reviewed Laugeson's research. "Parents are children's first and probably best teachers."

Despite the gains, Laugeson said the program is not a cure-all. Parents know this and don't expect their children to blossom into social butterflies overnight.

Andrea's mother has two goals: "I hope she becomes a better conversationalist and feels more comfortable around her peers."

Andrea's journey through an unfamiliar social world has been filled with some stumbles.

During a role-playing exercise, she was paired with a classmate to talk about their favorite book. Andrea was so eager to share her love of "Gone with the Wind" that she lapsed into a two-minute monologue about the plot. A counselor stepped in and reminded her not to be a "conversation hog."

One of Andrea's early attempts to inject herself into an existing conversation revealed some awkwardness. As a group of classmates chatted away about an animated movie, Andrea stood aloof, avoiding eye contact and unsure of what to do. Laugeson pulled her aside, advised her to listen and find a pause.

By the time Andrea rejoined the group, the discussion had switched to macadamia nuts. Andrea saw an opening and chimed in: "Well, I've tried macadamia

nuts and they're pretty good. When I was little, I would eat a lot."

As time went on, Andrea's confidence improved. Through practice, she has let go of her tendency to be an interviewer during phone calls. On her own, she came up with the idea of asking the kids who were signing her yearbook to jot down their phone numbers too, a ploy that won her praise from the counselors and gave her a pool of potential friends to call.

Other teens in the class also progressed, but at a slower pace.

A fellow 13-year-old, Elias Cazares Jr., was diagnosed with autism two years ago. He displays more outward signs of the disorder—rocking back and forth, constantly blinking, fidgeting with his face. Elias is obsessed with video games and talks of nothing else.

Unlike Andrea who got therapy growing up, this is the first time Elias has had professional help.

At times the pressure is too much. One day after class, Elias had a meltdown and refused to do the following week's homework—calling someone outside of the group. Elias confided to Laugeson that he was teased at school and did not want to befriend the bullies. She calmed him down and said he could dial a cousin instead.

Despite the struggles, Elias' father is proud of the small steps he's taken: He recently called his neighbor to schedule a get-together. He also started making small talk with a younger kid in his hip-hop class, but he's been too afraid to ask for his phone number.

"What I want for him is a more normal life, to have at least one or two friends," said Elias Cazares Sr.

As the teens hone their bonding skills, parents gather separately for their own lesson.

UCLA postdoctoral fellow Alex Gantman, "Dr. Alex," runs the parent session. It is a chance for them to talk about their kids' problems and progress and for Gantman to give pointers on helping the teens navigate their social surroundings.

One hard truth to face: There's a 50-50 chance that a kid will be rejected by

peers, Gantman said, and it's OK to let them know that.

He points out that follow-up phone calls are critical in a budding friendship.

"Teens move on really quickly. Somebody else gets their attention and boom, they're gone unless you really develop a strong friendship bond," he said.

Gantman is working to expand the training to young autistic adults. They often struggle with dating skills as portrayed in the summer romance movie, "Adam," about a young man with Asperger's who falls in love with his neighbor.

The PEERS program deals only with friendships, and teens must use the skills they learn in class in the real world. As part of their homework during the last month of the training, they had to play host to potential friends outside of the group.

Andrea invited over a fellow drama classmate with something in common. Both had a digestive problem that meant they couldn't eat foods containing wheat. So the two girls were going to make a gluten-free pizza.

Before the guest arrived, Andrea, dressed in a denim skirt and blouse, went over the steps of being a good host. The door bell buzzed. Her pony-tailed guest was five minutes early and wearing a shy smile.

After exchanging pleasantries, the two gathered in the kitchen. Andrea got off to a slow start, standing at times with her arms crossed in front while her mother chatted away.

Then, she remembered her hosting duties and asked if the classmate wanted to add the pizza toppings first.

The guest deferred. "You can go first." Andrea demonstrated: "So you put a little bit of sauce ... and sprinkle on the cheese."

"Perfect," the classmate replied.

After pizza, Andrea, with some prompting from her mother, asked what to do next.

The guest was indifferent so the two migrated to Andrea's room to watch a movie. After they got bored, they headed to the living room to play video games where Andrea got a chance to practice good sportsmanship.

Despite beating her guest in almost every round, Andrea threw out words of praise: "Good job" and "Come on. You can do this."

"You did well," Andrea said after winning the last round.

The two haven't gotten together since the culinary experience. It's been an up-and-down time. But Andrea managed to have four get-togethers with a girl she met in chorus. And she's felt those familiar teen pangs of loss when she was stood up by another girl.

The older, wiser Andrea shook it off. She focused on a new set of possible friends she met while awaiting her turn to dive at the local swimming pool.

After overhearing that her schoolmates were on Facebook, she persuaded her mother to let her create a profile. She sent out "a gazillion friend requests" hoping a few will bite.

She has 33 friends and counting.



# Police: Reality TV star found dead

**VANCOUVER, British Columbia** (AP)—A reality show contestant wanted for murder in the gruesome death of his ex-wife was found dead Sunday of an apparent suicide after hanging himself in a secluded Canadian motel, authorities said.

Sgt. Duncan Pound of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police border integrity unit said police responded to a call from hotel staff about a dead person in Hope, east of Vancouver, and then called investigators who were part of the massive manhunt for Jenkins.

The real estate developer and investor was wanted in California on first-degree murder charges after the mutilated body of Jasmine Fiore was found in a trash bin in Buena Park, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south-east of Los Angeles.

Jenkins apparently hanged himself, said Farrah Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office in California, which is in contact with Canadian police.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are "now able to confirm that a deceased person that was found in a motel in Hope, British Columbia is, in fact, Ryan Jenkins," Pound said.

"At this present time the investigation into the circumstances of his death is continuing, but preliminary evidence suggests that he took his own life. Any further details will not be released at this time as this investigation remains in its infancy."

Pound said police don't yet know how long Jenkins was at the motel before his body was discovered. Jenkins was identified through fingerprints, he said.

Jenkins' body was found in The Thunderbird Motel on an isolated road on the outskirts of Hope,



Police officials respond to the scene where a dead body was found in a motel, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, in Hope, east of Vancouver.

B.C. at the entrance to the western province's mountainous interior. His body was found in a room at the out-of-the-way motel.

The Thunderbird was surrounded by police with a coroner's van, said Marc Lojeski who works at the nearby Lucky Strike Motel.

Michelle Beck, who lives near the motel, said people who stay at the motel are "kind of seedy—lots of drugs addicts and people down on their luck."

Hope is about 160 km (100 miles)—or a two-hour drive from Point Roberts, Washington state—the last place Jenkins was reported to have been seen before he crossed into Canada.

Pound said his body was found Sunday afternoon and that they confirmed just before 5 p.m. local time that it was Jenkins. He said his family was notified before po-

lice went public with news.

Jenkins, 32, disappeared last week but his boat was found Wednesday at a marina not far from the U.S.-Canada border south of Vancouver.

Fiore's teeth had been pulled out and her fingers cut off, apparently to impede her identification. Investigators used the serial numbers on her breast implants to identify her, according to the Orange County district attorney's office.

After the U.S. Justice Department issued an extradition request, Canada issued a nation-wide warrant for Jenkins' arrest. Canadian authorities initially launched a massive border search using helicopters, ground police and dogs.

Jenkins and Fiore met in Las Vegas in March and they married a few weeks later.

The couple separated shortly afterward, but had reportedly recently reconciled.

A cell phone message left with Fiore's mother, Lisa Lepore of Maui, Hawaii, was not immediately returned.

California authorities said police in Buena Park where Fiore was found would continue their investigation to make sure no one else was involved in the killing, but did not expect to find anything.

"We continue to believe that Mr. Jenkins was solely responsible," said Emami, spokeswoman for the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

The British Columbia Coroner's Service is investigating Jenkins' death and police are trying to determine how he got to Hope.

Friends said Fiore was a model who worked mainly in

Las Vegas and Los Angeles, doing gigs such as being body-painted at parties. She also was an aspiring actress and had a bit part in a small 2008 horror science-fiction movie, "The Abandoned," according to the Internet Movie Database.

Jenkins was recently a contestant on VH1 reality show "Megan Wants a Millionaire," in which wealthy young men tried to win over a materialistic blonde. The network canceled the show Friday.

Fiore's mother told The Associated Press earlier this week that her daughter had the marriage annulled in May. However, there were no court records of an annulment in either Nevada, where the couple was married, or in Los Angeles County, where they most recently lived.

After taping for "Megan

Wants a Millionaire" finished in early March, Jenkins met Fiore in a Las Vegas casino and the two got married, said Lepore, Fiore's mother. Court records show the date of marriage as March 18.

But in May "they had a big blowout" and fought because he was jealous of her ex-boyfriends, Lepore said.

Jenkins then went to Mexico to do another reality TV show but struggled to get Fiore back when he returned.

"He convinced her during that month that he was really the guy for her," Lepore said. "He wrote poems and stories, and prayed, and (claimed he) had this huge spiritual awakening."

Jenkins also was a participant in an as-yet-unaired competitive reality series, "I Love Money 3." A VH1 spokesman said no decision has been made on whether or not to run the show.

A resume posted on the professional networking site LinkedIn.com says Jenkins had a license to fly commercial airplanes and dabbled in several development enterprises and investments since graduating from college in 1999. Those include Townscape Development Inc., a condo project undertaken in Calgary with his father, architect Daniel Jenkins.

Court records showed Jenkins was charged in June in Nevada with a misdemeanor count of "battery constituting domestic violence" for allegedly hitting Fiore in the arm and was set to be tried in December.

In his hometown of Calgary, Jenkins was sentenced to 15 months probation in January 2007 on an unspecified assault charge.

Prosecutors said the Jenkins and Fiore checked into a San Diego hotel Aug. 13, and Jenkins checked out the next morning. Fiore was not seen alive again.

## Venezuela repeats at Miss Universe contest

**NASSAU, Bahamas** (AP)—Miss Venezuela was the fairest of them all, again.

Venezuelan Stefania Fernandez won the 2009 Miss Universe pageant in the Bahamas on Sunday night.

Dressed in a flowing red gown, Fernandez embraced runner-up Miss Dominican Republic as the announcement was made, and received the crown from last year's winner, Dayana Mendoza, of Venezuela. The sparkling tiara fell to the floor at one point, as Fernandez danced in joy.

Venezuela, a beauty-obsessed South American country, has won the Miss Universe pageant six times.

During a question-and-answer segment with the five top finalists, Fernandez said she believed women have overcome obstacles such as hitting the proverbial glass ceiling.

"I feel we have reached the

level that men are at," she said.

The other top-five finalists were runner-up Ada Aimee de la Cruz, followed by Miss Kosovo, Droga Ganusha; Miss Australia, Rachael Finch; and Miss Puerto Rico, Mayra Matos Perez.

The top 15 finalists appeared in bathing suits before the final 10 were chosen for the evening gown segment.

Pageant co-owner Donald Trump told reporters, "I think this is the most beautiful group of women I've ever seen."

The televised event includes musical performances by Flo Rida, Heidi Montag, David Guetta and Kelly Rowland.

Montag gave her first live performance, singing "Body Language" from her debut album.

Fans cheered on the blond star of MTV's "The Hills," although NBC, which is broadcasting the event in the Bahamas live, blocked out more than

half of her performance as they introduced the 15 finalists.

"It's my first performance live and it's in front of a billion eyes. So I'm very excited to show everyone what I'm coming with," said Montag before her performance.

Hosts are Billy Bush, co-anchor of "Access Hollywood," and Claudia Jordan, a former Miss Rhode Island USA who has appeared on several TV shows. Judges include actor Dean Cain and supermodel Valeria Mazza.

Miss China, Wang Jingyao, was named Miss Congeniality and Miss Thailand, Chutima Durongdej, won Miss Photogenic.

Many contestants have suffered from dehydration in recent weeks, and Jewel Selver, Miss Turks and Caicos, went home Saturday to recuperate, said Esther Swan, Miss Universe spokeswoman.

Miss Venezuela Stefania Fernandez, center, reacts as she is named Miss Universe 2009 next to Miss Universe 2008 Dayana Mendoza, also of Venezuela, right, at the end the Miss Universe beauty pageant in Nassau, Bahamas, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.





# Pitt, Tarantino's *Basterds* earns glorious \$37.6M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The war effort by Quentin Tarantino and Brad Pitt has paid off as their history lesson “Inglourious Basterds” claimed victory at the box office with a \$37.6 million debut.

It was Tarantino's best opening ever, exceeding the \$25.1 million haul for 2004's “Kill Bill—Vol. 2.” Overseas, “Inglourious Basterds” added \$27.5 million in 22 countries, giving it a worldwide total of \$65.1 million.

Released domestically by the Weinstein Co. and overseas by Universal, “Inglourious Basterds” features Pitt and an international ensemble in a sprawling tale of Jewish commandos and a plot to take out Nazi leaders at a movie premiere during World War II.

The film provided a much-needed hit for Harvey and Bob



From left, producer Lawrence Bender, actor Eli Roth, actress Diane Kruger, writer/director Quentin Tarantino, actress Melanie Laurent and actor Christopher Waltz attend a Cinema Society screening of “Inglourious Basterds” in New York, on Monday, Aug. 17, 2009.

said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com.

So far, the Weinstein Co. has been unable to reproduce that Miramax success, its lineup burdened by box-office underachievers such as last year's “Soul Men” and 2007's “Grindhouse,” Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez's B-movie double-feature.

Harvey Weinstein said critics continually write off him and his brother, including a magazine piece in 2002 “saying we were the flavor of the '90s but we were kind of over in the new millennium.”

Weeks later, he noted, Miramax scored 40 Oscar nominations, among them three of the five best-picture nominees, including eventual winner “Chicago.”

Weinstein said his new company has a strong lineup ahead, including next weekend's horror sequel “Halloween II” along with “Chicago” director Rob Marshall's musical “Nine” and the post-apocalypse saga “The Road” late in the year.

Rodriguez, Tarantino's

Spader, Leslie Mann and a cast of kids in a series of loosely linked adventures centered on a magic rock that grants wishes.

Fox Atomic's comedy “Post Grad,” with Alexis Bledel as a college graduate who moves back home with her eccentric family after she's unable to land her dream job, tanked with \$2.8 million, coming in at No. 10.

The previous weekend's top movie, Sony's sci-fi thriller “District 9,” slipped to second-place with \$18.9 million. With a domestic total of \$73.5 million, the movie is on its way to becoming a \$100 million sleeper hit.

Hollywood's revenues were up for the third-straight weekend, a late-season surge that has helped the industry recover from a monthlong slide in receipts. Overall ticket sales were \$134 million, up 27 percent compared to the same weekend last year.

The weekend put Hollywood back on track to break last summer's revenue record of \$4.2 billion, though receipts this season are up only a fraction.

Factoring in higher ticket prices this year, movie attendance is running 3 percent below last summer's, according to Hollywood.com.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

Weinstein, who have managed only lackluster receipts at their new outfit since departing Disney-owned Miramax four years ago.

At Miramax, the Weinsteins balanced prestige and profit with a string of Academy Awards triumphs such as “Shakespeare in Love” and “Chicago” and hits such as Tarantino's “Pulp Fiction”

and the “Scary Movie” and “Scream” franchises.

“Tarantino helped build the house of Miramax. He's proving right now that he's helping to build the house of Weinstein,”

## Attack on Obama riles Beck's advertisers

NEW YORK (AP)—Glenn Beck returns to Fox News Channel after a vacation on Monday with fewer companies willing to advertise on his show than when he left, part of the fallout from calling President Barack Obama a racist.

A total of 33 Fox advertisers, including Walmart, CVS Caremark, Clorox and Sprint, directed that their commercials not air on Beck's show, according to the companies and ColorofChange.org, a group that promotes political action among blacks and launched a campaign to get advertisers to abandon him. That's more than a dozen more than were identified a week ago.

While it's unclear what effect, if any, this will ultimately have on Fox and Beck, it is already making advertisers skittish about hawking their wares within the most opinionated cable TV shows.

The Clorox Co., a former Beck advertiser, now says that “we do not want to be associated with inflammatory speech used by either liberal or conservative talk show hosts.” The maker of bleach and household cleaners said in a statement that it has decided not to advertise

“Grindhouse” partner, did not fare so well with “Shorts,” his Warner Bros. family comedy that debuted at No. 6 with just \$6.6 million. The movie features William H. Macy, James

on political talk shows.

The shows present a dilemma for advertisers, who usually like a “safe” environment for their messages. The Olbermanns, Hannitys, O'Reillys, Maddows and Becks of the TV world are more likely to say something



In this May 5, 2009 file photo, newscaster Glenn Beck attends the Time 100 Gala, a celebration of TIME Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in New York.

that will anger a viewer, who might take it out on sponsors.

They also host the most-watched programs on their networks.

“This is a good illustration of that conundrum,” said Rich

Hallabran, spokesman for UPS Stores, which he said has temporarily halted buying ads on Fox News Channel as a whole.

Beck can bring the eyeballs. With the health care debate raising political temperatures, his show had its biggest week ever right before his vacation, averaging 2.4 million viewers each day, according to Nielsen Media Research.

He was actually on another Fox show July 28 when he referred to Obama as a racist with “a deep-seated hatred for white people.” The network immediately distanced itself from Beck's statement, but Beck didn't. He used his radio show the next day to explain why he believed that. He would not comment for this article, spokesman Matthew Hiltzik said.

ColorofChange.org quickly targeted companies whose ads had appeared during Beck's show, telling them what he had said and seeking a commitment to drop him. The goal is to make Beck a liability, said James Rucker, the organization's executive director.

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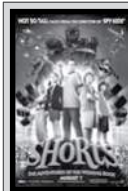
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### Shorts

Friday	4:10	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:10	7:15
Sunday	1:05	4:10	7:15
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:10	7:15	

**Jimmy Bennett, Jake Short**  
 Children • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Eleven-year-old Toe Thompson is the designated punching bag for the bullies of the suburban community of Black Falls, where his and everyone else's parents work for Black Box Industries, makers of the do-it-all gadget that's sweeping the nation. But during a freak storm, a mysterious Rainbow Rock, which grants wishes to anyone who finds it, falls from the sky. Suddenly, the neighborhood that Toe already thinks is weird is about to get a lot weirder.



### Inglourious Basterds

Friday	4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:00	7:00	

**Brad Pitt, Diane Kruger**  
 Political • Rated R

### Synopsis

In the first year of the German occupation of France, Shosanna Dreyfus witnesses the execution of her family at the hand of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa. Shosanna narrowly escapes and flees to Paris where she forges a new identity as the owner and operator of a cinema. Elsewhere in Europe, Lieutenant Aldo Raine organizes a group of Jewish American soldiers to perform swift, shocking acts of retribution. Later known to their enemy as “the basterds,” Raine's squad joins German actress and undercover agent Bridget von Hammersmark on a mission to take down the leaders of the Third Reich.



### District 9

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:05	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:05	7:10
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:05	7:10	

**Sharito Copley, Jason Cope**  
 Sci-Fi • Rated R

### Synopsis

Thirty years ago, aliens made first contact with Earth. Humans waited for the hostile attack, or the giant advances in technology. Neither came. Instead, the aliens were refugees, the last survivors of their home world. The creatures were set up in a makeshift home in South Africa's District 9 as the world's nations argued over what to do with them. Now, patience over the alien situation has run out. Control over the aliens has been contracted out to Multi-National United, a private company uninterested in the aliens' welfare — they will receive tremendous profits if they can make the aliens' awesome weaponry work.



### The Time Traveler's Wife

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:25	4:20	7:05
Sunday	1:25	4:20	7:05
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:20	7:05	

**Rachel McAdams, Eric Bana**  
 Drama, Romance, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13



### G.I. JOE

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:20	4:30	7:25
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:30	7:25	

**Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum**  
 War • Rated PG 13



### G-Force

Friday	4:15	7:30	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:30
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:15	7:30	

**Nicolas Cage, Steve Buscemi**  
 Action, Animated • Rated PG



### Aliens in the Attic

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20
Mon. thru Thurs.	4:25	7:20	

**Thomas Haden Church, Carter Jenkins**  
 Adventure, Family • Rated PG

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# Heidi Montag sings at Miss Universe, dismisses critics

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Heidi Montag jumped onstage in tight sequined pants and a matching bra Sunday at the Miss Universe pageant, and gave her first live performance, singing "Body Language" from her debut album.

Fans cheered on the blonde star of MTV's "The Hills," although NBC, which is broadcasting the event in the Bahamas live, blocked out more than half of her performance as they introduced the 15 finalists.

"I think people don't know what to expect, and how can they? It's my first performance live and it's in front of a billion eyes. So I'm very excited to show everyone what I'm com-

ing with," said Montag prior to her performance.

She stuck to simple dance moves, and some appeared a bit stilted although fans cheered constantly.

TMZ.com reported, using unnamed sources, that Montag might not sing because production staffers were worried about her performance and had concerns that she could not remember the lyrics.

Montag had said she was unaware of such criticism and said she was excited about performing live.

"I'm very excited for everybody to see this," she said. "I think a lot of people are expecting something very different."

Heidi Montag gave her first live performance, singing "Body Language" from her debut album Sunday at the Miss Universe pageant.

AP



## Western novelist Kelton dies at 83

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Western novelist Elmer Kelton, whose novel "The Good Old Boys" was made into a TV movie starring Tommy Lee Jones, has died. He was 83. Myrtis Loudermilk, a director at Johnson's Funeral Home in San Angelo, told The Associated Press that Kelton died Saturday of natural causes.

Kelton wrote 62 fiction and nonfiction books. "The Good Old Boys" was made into a 1995 TV movie starring Jones for the TNT cable network. Kelton also was known for "The Man Who Rode Midnight" and "The Time It Never Rained."

His first novel, "Hot Iron," was published in 1956, and he recently finished his last book, "Texas Standoff," due out next year. Another novel, "Other Men's Horses," will be released this fall.

The Western Writers of America voted Kelton "Best Western Author of All Time" and gave him its Spur Award seven times. Four of his books won the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

Born in Crane, Kelton grew up on the McElroy Ranch in west Texas. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944 to 1946 and saw combat in Europe during World War II.

He earned a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin and spent 15 years as the farm and ranch writer-editor for the San Angelo Standard-Times. He also worked as an editor for Sheep and Goat Raiser Magazine and Livestock Weekly, from which he retired in 1990.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday at First United Methodist Church in San Angelo.

Kelton is survived by his wife, Ann, and three children.

## Award-winning keyboardist Knechtel dead at 69

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP)—Larry Knechtel, a Grammy award-winning keyboardist who accompanied big-name musicians such as Elvis Presley, Ray Charles and the Dixie Chicks, is dead at 69.

Knechtel, who moved to Yakima in 2003, died Thursday at Yakima Valley Memorial Hospital of an apparent heart attack. His death was confirmed by a spokesman for Valley Hills Funeral Home.

Knechtel was born in Bell, Calif., and performed live and in studio recordings with a wide

range of artists, including Neil Diamond, Randy Newman, Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, The Doors, Elvis Presley, Hank Williams Jr. and Elvis Costello.

He earned a Grammy award for his arrangement of Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water," played keyboard on the Dixie Chicks' Grammy award-winning album "Taking the Long Way" and performed on the Hammond organ for the group's tour of the same name.

"Larry's resume is a history lesson in great American music all unto itself," the Dixie Chicks

wrote on their Web site. "The term 'legendary musician' isn't an overstatement when talking about a multi-instrumentalist who can be heard on some of music's most legendary recordings."

Blues singer and guitar player Wayman Chapman, a friend and frequent performing partner, said Knechtel had seemed to be in good health following a recent trip to Italy with his wife, Vickie, and a grandson.

"He told me in '03 that he needed to think about retiring, but since then he'd been going like gangbusters," Chapman said.

## Police probe burglary report at Lohan's LA home



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police are investigating a reported burglary at Lindsay Lohan's home in the Hollywood Hills. Los Angeles police Officer Norma Eisenman says the possible break-in was reported to police early Sunday.

She says police are still determining whether any property was missing from the home.

Actress Lindsay Lohan's home is shown in Los Angeles, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

AP

## ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

### Outed blogger who trashed model is angry at Google

NEW YORK (AP)—A blogger who called a magazine cover model offensive names on a Web site says Google failed to protect her right to privacy. Rosemary Port tells the Daily News in Sunday editions that she's angry that Google unmasked her after a Manhattan judge forced the company to reveal her identity. Port was identified as the author of a site on Google's Blogger.com that had published anonymous remarks about Vogue cover model Liskula Cohen's hygiene and sexual habits. Cohen sued to have the blogger identified,

arguing that the comments on the site were defamatory. But Port says that her privacy was violated, and that she has a right to her opinions.

### 'Project Runway' takes off on Lifetime

HOLLYWOOD—Grabbing "Project Runway" is beginning to look like a triumph for Lifetime. The fashion design reality series began its long-delayed sixth season Thursday, delivering 4.2 million viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research. That's the program's highest premiere number and a 45 percent increase compared with last summer's Season 5

launch on Bravo. "Runway" is being watched closely because the move to Lifetime resulted in a lawsuit between NBC Universal, which owns Bravo; and Weinstein Co., which makes the show. NBC said that in cutting the deal with Lifetime, Weinstein had violated its contractual rights. The suit was settled this year. Andrea Wong, president and chief executive of Lifetime, said in an interview Friday that the network was thrilled with the ratings and that "Runway" would be a "key part in the evolution of our brand, to bring more relevance and a more contemporary feel" to the network. (Los Angeles Times)

## Nosy friend takes self-guided tour through woman's purse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Some friends and I shared a vacation house last month. While I was out hiking, a supposed friend, "Lynette," rummaged through my purse (which had been stashed in a closet) and made a non-emergency phone call on my cell. She didn't tell me about it. I found out on my own.

It's not that I mind her using my phone, but a purse is private, and I felt violated. Let me add that she also knew about an article I had packed in a zipped pouch that I keep in my beach bag. I don't know why she snooped through my stuff.

Am I wrong to be upset? And do you think this "friendship" is worth continuing?

LIVID IN LEXINGTON, KY.



Dear Abby

DEAR LIVID: Are you wrong to be upset? No. And the friendship is only worth continuing if you set some boundaries, because Lynette appears not to understand the concept of privacy.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What is the protocol when parents dine out with their successful, married adult children and their spouses? As parents, are we expected to pay for their meals and costly alcoholic beverages for the rest of our lives? Or it is fair for these adult children—all of whom have well-paying jobs—to split the bill and tip with us?

We feel each couple at the table should chip in and pay their share of the costs—whether it's our adult kids or contemporaries—but we have been criticized for it. It has reached the point that my husband and I split an entree to keep our restaurant bill within reason.

We're approaching retirement age. Shouldn't it be our choice whether we "treat" others to a meal or not?

PUZZLED IN LOUISIANA

DEAR PUZZLED: Of course the choice should be yours. However, you created this "monster," so it is up to you to set the record straight. The way to do that is to make clear to your successful adult children before their next bite that you are all adults now and that as adults they will be responsible for paying their part of the tab.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My former boss, "Ken," is 30 years older than I am. We slept together several months ago while my boyfriend, "Vinny," and I were separated. The affair was short-lived, and Vinny and I reconciled.

When I discovered I was pregnant, Vinny and I eloped. Abby, I'm almost positive this is Vinny's baby, but I'm not 100 percent sure, so I told him everything.

Now Vinny wants me to tell Ken and his wife that I need a paternity test. I agree that Ken's wife needs to know, but I'm afraid that bringing this out will bring some serious repercussions. What should I do?

NEEDS CLOSURE IN OHIO

DEAR NEEDS CLOSURE: You and Vinny should have the DNA test performed. If it turns out the baby isn't Vinny's and you're afraid to approach Ken and his wife for fear that Ken might retaliate in some way that could hurt your career, consult a lawyer before telling them about the upcoming blessed event.

If Ken is the father, he has an obligation to support his child. And you'll be doing the wife a favor, because if your former boss is the naughty boy I suspect he is, you aren't the first woman he has had unprotected sex with, and she needs to be tested for STDs.

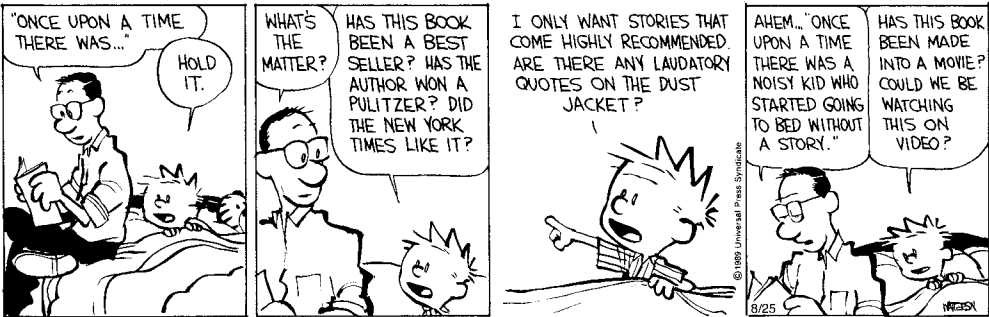
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby – Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Pastimes

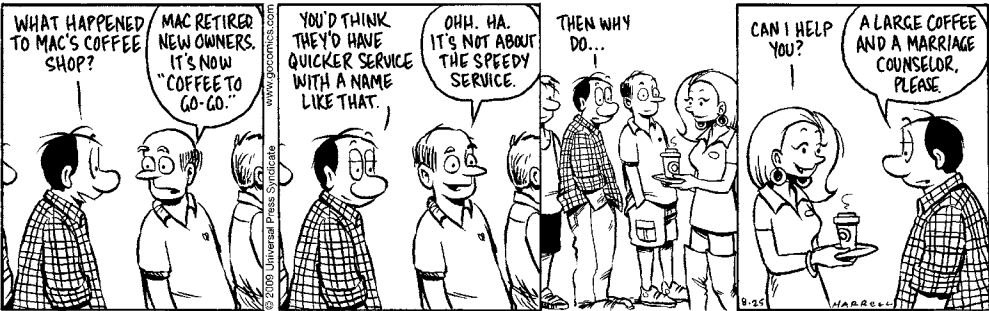
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Dictionary entry  
5 Old bird of New Zealand  
8 Request when playing "Red Light"  
12 Burn soother  
13 Quiche ingredient  
14 Works with  
15 Brothers and sisters  
16 Late newsman Walter  
18 Travelers' lodging  
20 Title role for Michael Caine or Jude Law  
21 Reproductive cells  
22 Actress Joanne  
23 Ill-humored  
26 Pilot's chamber  
30 Annoy

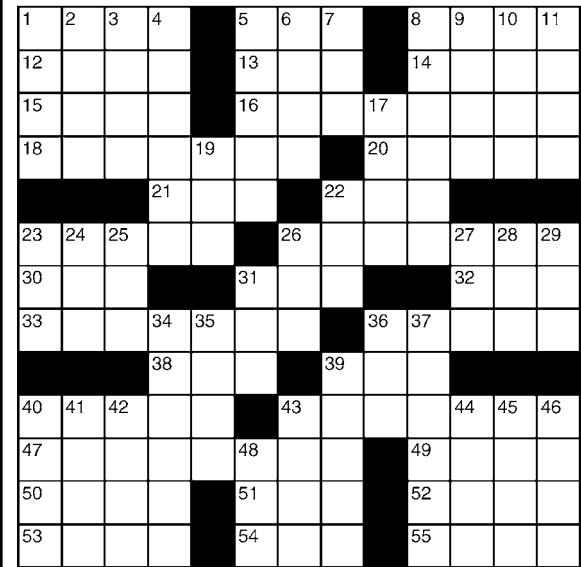
**DOWN**

1 Tend the lawn  
3 Greek vowel  
33 Jiminy, e.g.  
36 Raise a glass to  
38 Coop occupant  
39 Fedora or derby  
40 Less friendly  
43 Hypodermic device  
47 Sidewalk material  
49 Partially mine  
50 Trans-Siberian Railroad city  
51 Sister  
52 Error  
53 Trawler gear

**17** DEA agent  
**19** Wall climber  
**22** Part of DJIA  
**23** First X or O?  
**24** Blunder  
**25** Tackle moguls  
**26** Barracks bed  
**27** Shell game item  
**28** "— Im-possible"  
**29** Make lace  
**31** Chaps  
**34** Verifies  
**35** Actress Deborah  
**36** Pitch  
**37** Idle  
**39** Zoo howler  
**40** PC picture  
**41** Arrive  
**42** "Meet Me — Louis"  
**43** Dazzle  
**44** Void partner  
**45** Bleak  
**46** Hockey legend Phil, to fans  
**48** Conclusion

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 8-25**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jeff Tweedy, 42; Blair Underwood, 45; Billy Ray Cyrus, 48; Tim Burton, 51

**Happy Birthday:** You should be planning to put a lot of your past ideas and plans into play now. It's action that will lead to victory. Changes in your current partnerships and relationships can be expected. If someone doesn't live up to your expectations, it's time to move on and to align yourself with someone who does. Your numbers are 2, 7, 20, 23, 29, 33, 39

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Chances are good that you are not being given the information you require to make a proper decision. Don't get angry but be persistent and ask pertinent questions. You need to know what's best for everyone. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Don't be fooled by an acquaintance asking for help. Focus on your home, family and relationships. A favorable romantic occurrence will lead to a better situation. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your savvy approach to everything you do will be proof enough that you know how to handle others and accomplish your goals. An emotional matter that arises between you and a colleague must be kept under control and not made public, if possible. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You can make a difference to the people around you if you offer help and suggestions. A change regarding your work will lead to a healthier and happier situation. Assess your

past to discover what you want and need in your life. \*\*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Think before you make alterations that might upset someone you love. Find out what everyone around you wants before you make a decision that can change the schedules of those you love. A partnership may be on shaky ground. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Use your experience and your ability to find out the truth about what is actually happening within a legal or financial deal that may influence your future. Your thoroughness will pay off. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't stop short of what's required of you in order to advance. You have everything aligned for advancement. With an unusual twist to the way you see and do things, you should be well on your way to stardom. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Let your emotions lead the way and you will outshine anyone who tries to outdo you. You can make some very original changes to your current plans and surprise everyone with your genius. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Home, family and the assets you have accumulated must be protected. A change at home may come as a surprise but, as long as you have your side of things covered, you will not suffer the consequences of a past poor decision. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Tie up some of the details that are holding back a project or plan you have been try-

EUGENIA LAST  
THE LAST WORD  
IN ASTROLOGY

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ing to get off the ground. There is an interesting opportunity to mix a little business with pleasure. Take your time and find out where it all could lead. \*\*\*\*

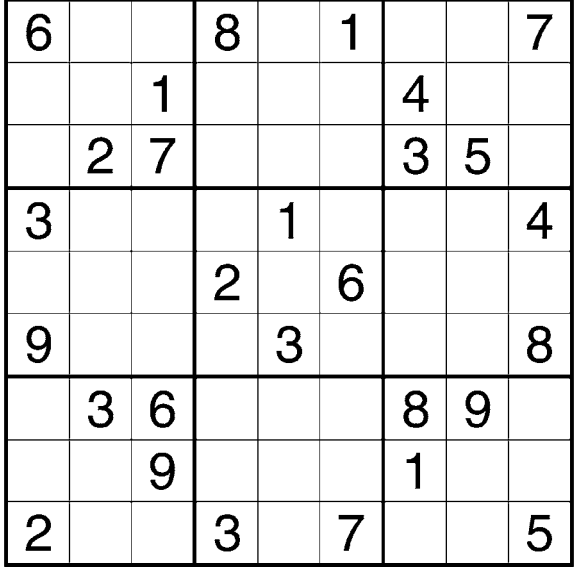
**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Do not deviate from your plans because someone is causing you grief. This is not the time to give in to temptation or get involved with someone who isn't the best role model. You owe it to your friends and family to avoid past mistakes. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Alterations to your home or living arrangements will benefit you in the long run. You have to look at the overall picture and structure your decisions to accommodate your plans for the future. A passionate encounter will lead to a better understanding. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are intense, disciplined, determined and always looking for a way to help others. You always stay true to your own beliefs. Eugenia's Web sites: [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun, [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations

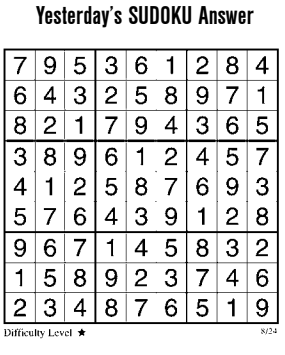
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★ 8/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CITY CENTER, LAS VEGAS Solution: 7 letters



© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 8/25  
Acres, Architect, Bellagio, Bistro, Build, Butler, Cabana, Community, Condominium, Crystals, Desert, Dine, District, Doorman, Elvis, Foster, Gaming, Gensler, Harmon, Hotel, Kesari, Lounge, McClain, Mina, Mirage, Model, Nevada, Pavilion, Pelli, Pool, Resort, Rich, Rockwell, Salon, Serrano, Strip, Takayama, Tourist, Tower, Urban, Valet  
**Yesterday's Answer:** Plinko  
Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for \$10.95 each plus \$3.25 postage and handling each (\$14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, \$1.50 psh for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.



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PRO SE  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ) FCD GU  
PETITION TO APPOINT ) CIVIL ACTION  
GENERAL GUARDIANSHIP ) NO. 09-0451  
FOR: )  
SHELBY RAY PINAULA )  
Minor Child ) NOTICE OF  
by ) HEARING  
DIEGO C. PINAULA and )  
FRANCISCA T. PINAULA )  
Petitioners, )

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition to Appoint a Guardian for the above-named minor child by Diego and Francisca T. Pinaula, Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.  
A HEARING of said petition for Guardianship will be held at the above-entitled Honorable Court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before the Honorable Kenneth Govendo on the 2nd day of September, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. or as soon as thereafter.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court  
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

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Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, ) Small Claims  
No. 09-0323  
Plaintiff, )  
vs. ) AMENDED  
TEOFILO S. SALVANI, ) SUMMONS  
Defendant. )

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED  
DEFENDANT TEOFILO S. SALVANI

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 21st day of July, 2009.  
/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

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### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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# 235-NEWS



# Federer in form for U.S. Open



**MASON, Ohio (AP)**—Roger Federer is back in top-of-the-world

form heading into the U.S. Open.

The Swiss star played up to his No. 1 ranking Sunday, beating Novak Djokovic 6-1, 7-5 for the Cincinnati Masters title and plenty of confidence heading into the Open, which he has won each of the last five years.

Federer's goal in Cincinnati was to work off the rust from a brief layoff during his stellar season. He won his first French Open championship and an epic Wimbledon match against Andy Roddick for his record 15th Grand Slam title, then took time off to become the father of twin daughters.

His stellar season can get even better beginning next week at the U.S. Open. The Swiss star has won the last five titles there, and his performance on Sunday suggested he's fully capable of another. Djokovic hadn't lost a set all week, but was never in the title match.

"The closest I was going to get to the first-place trophy is now," the world's fourth-ranked player said, standing 5 feet away from the crystal bowl that goes to the winner of the \$3 million Western & Southern Financial Group Masters.

Federer's glass-enclosed trophy case in Switzerland has gotten a lot of precious additions lately. The 28-year-old star won his first French Open championship, then outlasted Andy Roddick in an epic five-set Wimbledon match that brought him a record 15th Grand Slam title.

He shuttled between hospital and practice court for three weeks after his wife, Mirka, gave birth to twins in July. His goal in Cincinnati was to work off the rust and get ready for the Open.

What rust?

"I felt like my game was already



AP  
Roger Federer, from Switzerland, thanks the crowd after defeating Novak Djokovic, from Serbia, 6-1, 7-5, to win the title at the Cincinnati Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009, in Mason, Ohio.

pretty well in place in practice, so knew coming over here it was not just to show up," he said. "That it paid off so quickly, I'm a little bit surprised, you know?"

He took control right away, breaking Djokovic's serve in a second game that lasted 13 minutes and 22 points overall. The 22-year-old Serb kept up better in the second set, but knew he was headed for his fourth runner-up finish in a Masters tournament this year.

Djokovic is looking forward to the U.S. Open, where he had one of his worst moments last year. He got into a verbal squabble with crowd-favorite Andy Roddick, who made a flippant remark about the Serb's numerous injuries during the tournament.

When Djokovic took exception to the remarks after a match at Arthur Ashe Stadium, the crowd booed. Djokovic later apologized.

"It was unfortunate for me that it happened in one of the four biggest

events in the world, and it happened in the city and tournament where I've always felt great, felt at home," he said Sunday. "But, you know, it's the past. I forgot about it. I really look forward to playing there, and hopefully the fans will accept me in a good way."

Federer knows what kind of reception he'll get, from street corners to center court. They love him in NY.

Last year, he was struggling when he showed up in Cincinnati and took an early loss, which opened the way for Rafael Nadal to end his four-year run as the world's No. 1-ranked player. A disappointing showing at the Olympics in China made Federer feel worse. Some commentators suggested he'd lost his ability to dominate the big moments.

He landed in New York and everything changed.

"I was lucky enough that when I got to New York, the fans were really there trying to push me back to No. 1 right away," he said. "They were great, you know. All the cab drivers and everybody was stopping to wish me luck. It was something that I've never really experienced before in New York. I think that really helped turn it around for me."

Feeding off the energy, he beat Djokovic in the semifinals and Andy Murray for the title. When Nadal had to take two months off after the French Open to let his sore knees heal, Federer took advantage of the opening and moved back to No. 1.

Federer will be trying to win a sixth straight U.S. Open title, something no one has accomplished since Bill Tilden did it from 1920-25.

"The fans for me really turned it around, and that's why this year I'm so excited going back there," Federer said. "I've had even better results, so I hope I can again show them what I can do on a tennis court."

## Moore beats Stadler in sudden death

**GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)** — Ryan Moore spent plenty of time this week sitting around and waiting at Sedgefield Country Club. A few extra moments weren't going to bother him.

Not with his first PGA Tour victory on the line.

Moore claimed his first win on tour with a birdie on the third hole of a sudden death playoff to beat Kevin Stadler on Sunday at the Wyndham Championship.

"I was able to stay patient, really," Moore said. "That's what won this one."

After vaulting up the leaderboard with five consecutive birdies on the back nine, he had two chances to seal the victory after his approach on No. 18 landed in the middle of the green and rolled to 6 feet. He sank that putt for his first victory in his 112th event.

Stadler's second shot on the third playoff hole skipped off the back of the green. He chipped within 20 feet, but his putt drifted to the low side of the cup.

That cleared the way for Moore to make his putt, pick up \$918,000 and 500 FedEx Cup points for winning the final tournament before the playoffs start later this week.

"This felt like an uphill battle," said Moore, who turned pro in 2005. "The whole time I've been on the PGA Tour,

I just haven't been healthy, haven't felt like myself, and really kind of got some good momentum (finishing tied for 10th) at the U.S. Open, really feeling like myself again over the golf ball, and just kind of getting some confidence back in the putter and every aspect of the game. That's really carried through to this week."

Stadler, Moore and Jason Bohn forced the playoff after they were tied at 16-under 264 through 72 holes. Bohn was eliminated on the first playoff hole after he had trouble escaping the greenside bunker on No. 18 and his first try rolled back into the sand.

Sergio Garcia blew a three-stroke lead midway through the final round, shot a 70 and finished at 265. Michael Allen (68), Kevin Sutherland (66), Fred Couples (67), Brandt Snedeker (68) and Justin Rose (68) were at 266.

Moore and Stadler both bogeyed No. 18 in regulation.

Moore sailed his drive near the cart path. His second shot bounced into the sand and - after a remarkable bunker chip to 8 feet - his short par putt bent left around the hole. The younger Stadler's third shot landed on a hill behind the green but rolled back to 8

feet from the flagstick, but he left his par putt about 6 inches short.

"I can't play that hole," Stadler said. "I'll just leave it that."

Moore shot a 65 in the final round and had five consecutive birdies on Nos. 12-16 in moving to 17 under, then waited while Stadler finished his final-round 66 that included back-to-back birdies on Nos. 14 and 15.

Bohn - who started the round seven strokes off the lead - had a 62 that was the best round of the day. He followed birdies on seven of his first 14 holes with an eagle that pushed him to 16 under, grabbed the lead with a par on No. 16 and didn't miss a green until No. 17.

He had roughly an hour's wait - a common theme at this rain-deluged tournament - while Moore and Stadler finished their rounds.

"I wasn't even thinking I would get in a playoff," Bohn said.

Stadler was attempting to join his father—13-time PGA winner Craig Stadler—in winning in Greensboro. The elder Stadler cruised to a six-stroke victory in the Greater Greensboro Open in 1980.

The participants in the playoff had combined for one previous victory

**WYNDHAM**  
CHAMPIONSHIP

### NFL BRIEFS

#### Vick works toward possibly playing Thursday

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Michael Vick showed no signs of rust during the Philadelphia Eagles' practice Sunday, throwing tight spirals with plenty of velocity. "How does Michael look in the offense? He looks pretty good," offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg said. "It was a fairly seamless transition, even though he hadn't played for two years, because of the terminology. It's very similar. Now, many of the details are different and details are where you win football games, so that's the important part there. But the terminology is coming very easily to him." Mornhinweg said coach Andy Reid will probably make a decision Tuesday on whether Vick will make his preseason debut Thursday at home against the Jacksonville Jaguars. Vick worked with offensive assistants James Urban and Doug Pederson on Sunday.

#### Giants have work to do in wake of loss to Bears

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)**—Instead of getting that big improvement in the second game of the preseason, Tom Coughlin and the New York Giants got a reality check. The team that looked so good in beating Carolina in the opening preseason game on Monday took a big step back in dropping a 17-3 decision to the Chicago Bears on Saturday night. While the score wasn't lopsided, the Giants failed to score a touchdown, got only 11 first downs and allowed Jay Cutler (notes) and the Bears' first-team offense to score on drives of 80 and 92 yards. "We need to focus on improving as a football team and, quite frankly, we need to stop listening to all the media telling us where we are good and where we aren't good and all of that stuff," Coughlin said in a conference call late Sunday afternoon. "We need to get the team on track knowing full well that we don't have a lot of time to do this. This having taken place, I hope it is a wake-up call."

#### Bucs' LB Crowell out for season

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)**—The Tampa Bay Buccaneers say linebacker Angelo Crowell (notes) will miss the season with a torn biceps muscle. The seventh-year pro was hurt during Saturday night's preseason victory at Jacksonville. The former Buffalo defensive captain signed with the Bucs as a free agent after sitting out all of 2008 because of a knee injury. Crowell was slowed much of training camp by a sore hamstring. Third-year pro Quincy Black becomes the likely starter at strongside linebacker. The 28-year-old spent six seasons in Buffalo after entering the NFL as a third-round draft pick in 2003. He had his best season in 2007, leading the Bills with 140 tackles, two sacks and one interception.

#### Seahawks lose Spencer to leg injury

**SEATTLE (AP)**—Seahawks starting center Chris Spencer has an injured leg and will have more tests to determine how long he will be out. Spencer hurt his left quadriceps muscle in the second quarter of Saturday night's 27-13 preseason win over Denver. He was taken to the locker room on a motorized cart. Seahawks coach Jim Mora called the injury "the most serious" of assorted bumps and bruises. Mora said Spencer will have an MRI on Sunday. Seattle is already without nine-time Pro Bowl left tackle Walter Jones (notes) on its jumbled offensive line. The 35-year-old had his second knee surgery in eight months last week and is out indefinitely.



# Yankees hit 5 HRs off Beckett, top Red Sox



**BOSTON** (A P) — Derek Jeter needed one pitch to reach a milestone and get the Yankees going again.

New York's leadoff batter hit the first pitch of the game for a homer, his 2,700th career hit, and the Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 8-4 Sunday night with five homers off Josh Beckett.

"We got pitches to hit and we hit them," Jeter said one night after Boston's 14-1 win. "It's not really more complicated than that. When we hit them, we hit them hard."

Yankees starter CC Sabathia became the majors' first 15-game winner but wasn't as sharp as he had been, forcing fans hoping for a pitchers duel between the AL's only two 14-game winners to settle for a power display.

"Beckett is a great pitcher," Sabathia said, "but this lineup is unbelievable."

Hideki Matsui hit two homers, matching his output of Friday night, and Robinson Cano and Alex Rodriguez also went deep.

"These are humbling deals," Beckett said. "That was a whupping I got today. That's the only words I've got to sum it up."

Sabathia (15-7) won his fifth straight start but gave up three earned runs and eight hits. He had allowed a total of three runs in his previous three starts. But he had excellent control with eight strikeouts and no walks.

## Rangers 4, Rays 0

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Scott Feldman struck out a career-high 11 batters to win his fifth consecutive road start as the Texas Rangers avoided a three-game sweep by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 4-0 in the American League on Sunday.

Michael Young and Ivan Rodriguez each drove in two runs.

Feldman (13-4) is the first Texas pitcher with victories in five straight starts away from home since Rick Helling accomplished the feat in 1998. The right-hander, 9-1 this season on the road, allowed four hits in seven scoreless innings. Darren O'Day struck out all three batters he faced in the eighth before closer Frank Francisco pitched the ninth in a non-save situation.

## Blue Jays 8, Angels 3

At Toronto, Ricky Romero won for the first time in four starts and Travis Snider hit a solo homer as Toronto beat Los Angeles.

Snider went 3 for 3 with a walk as the Blue Jays earned a split in their eight-game season series with the Angels. Toronto has lost the season series just once in the past seven years.

The AL West-leading Angels have lost three of four following a five-game winning streak and are 10-18 in Toronto since the start of the 2003 season.

Romero (11-5) moved into a tie with Tampa Bay's Jeff Niemann for the AL rookie lead in wins by allowing two runs and eight hits in six innings.

Making just his third major league start, Angels right-hander Trevor Bell failed to get out of the second inning, allowing six runs and six hits in 1 2-3 innings. Bell (1-1) walked four, one intentionally.

## Athletics 9, Tigers 4

At Oakland, California, Jack Cust hit two homers and drove in four runs, and Landon Powell added a three-run shot as Oakland beat Detroit.

Brett Tomko (3-2) allowed three hits in six innings, striking out eight. He's won both his starts for the Athletics after appearing in 15 games with the Yankees. Cliff Pennington also homered for the A's.

Miguel Cabrera had three hits, including his 200th home run, and drove in two as the Tigers lost their second straight. Curtis Granderson hit a leadoff homer and Marcus Thames added a pinch-hit RBI single.

Cabrera is the fifth player from Venezuela with at least 200 homers.

## Orioles 5, White Sox 4

At Chicago, Brian Roberts had three hits and Nolan Reimold hit a two-run homer to help Baltimore beat Chicago's Mark Buehrle.

Jason Berken (3-11) won for the second time since May 26. The rookie right-hander allowed three runs, two earned, and five hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Buehrle (11-7) yielded five runs and 11 hits in 5 1-3 innings. He is 0-4 with a 6.22 ERA in six starts since his perfect game against the Rays on July 23.

The White Sox split their six-game homestand against the Royals and Orioles and open an 11-game road trip in Boston on Monday. The difficult stretch also includes a three-game series against the Yankees, a three-game set at Minnesota and a makeup game against the Cubs at Wrigley Field.

## Twins 10, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Michael Cuddyer homered twice in Minnesota's eight-run seventh inning and Denard Span added a three-run triple to help Minnesota break open a close game against Kansas City.

A pitching duel between Twins starter Carl Pavano (11-9) and Royals right-hander Brian Bannister (7-10) got messy in a hurry in the seventh, when Cuddyer hit the first pitch for a homer, then added a two-run shot that put Minnesota up 9-1.

Playing his sixth straight game at first base in place of Justin Morneau (ear infection), Cuddyer became the first Twins player to hit two homers in an inning and the first in the majors since Boston's David Ortiz did it against Texas last August.

Orlando Cabrera drove in two runs and the Twins had 14 hits—every starter at least one.

## Indians 6, Mariners 1

At Cleveland, Fausto Carmona pitched seven innings for his



New York Yankees left fielder Johnny Damon can't make a catch on a single by Boston Red Sox's Mike Lowell during the sixth inning of a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston on Sunday, Aug. 23, 2009.

## Mets expected to bring back GM Omar Minaya

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Mets general manager Omar Minaya is expected back next season.

The New York Post reported Sunday that owner Fred Wilpon said Minaya will return in 2010 despite the failings of his \$136 million team on and off the field this year.

Minaya in turn told the newspaper that if he's back, manager Jerry Manuel will return as well.

"I always felt I had ownership's support and I'll continue to work to do my job every day to the best of my abilities," Minaya told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Manuel said he appreciated the support, but he was focused on winning games. Manuel had received the backing of Mets chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon, the owner's son, in July.

"Jeff has already given us a vote of confidence before," Manuel said before New York played the Philadelphia Phillies

on Sunday. "I appreciate these things, but we're still trying to win games and that doesn't really change any way how you go about anything. You're still trying to do the best you can."

Manuel and Fred Wilpon spoke at length in the outfield during batting practice Saturday, but Manuel declined to discuss what was said.

Decimated by injuries, the Mets have slipped to fourth place in the NL East. Last season, they missed the playoffs following their second consecutive September meltdown. Afterward, Minaya was given a three-year contract extension that runs through 2012. The deal contains club options covering 2013 and 2014.

"Am I going to bring Omar back next year? Absolutely. That's a fact," Fred Wilpon told the Post.

Manuel is signed through next season, with a club option for 2011.

The Mets came into this sea-

son with an \$800 million new ballpark and hopes of supplanting the Phillies atop the NL East. Instead, long-term injuries to Jose Reyes, Carlos Delgado, Carlos Beltran, John Maine, and more recently, David Wright, depleted the lineup and sent the team into a tailspin that left it out of playoff contention in August.

The injuries also exposed a lack of depth in the Mets' farm system, and Minaya failed to make any major moves at the trade deadline.

Minaya was in the middle of a front-office debacle, too. The club fired vice president of player development Tony Bernazard, a longtime friend and top Minaya lieutenant, for a series of publicized blowups.

At a bizarre news conference to announce the move, Minaya questioned the motives and credibility of a beat reporter who wrote several damaging stories about Bernazard. Minaya later apologized.

## Rockies 4, Giants 2

At Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez threw eight strong innings and Seth Smith hit a two-run homer in the seventh as Colorado downed San Francisco.

Held hitless by Tim Lincecum for 5 1-3 innings, the Rockies rallied to move three games ahead of San Francisco in the NL wild-card race. Jimenez (12-9) won his sixth straight decision for Colorado, which has taken two of three in a four-games series that concludes Monday night at Coors Field.

The reigning NL Cy Young Award winner, Lincecum (12-4) was working on a no-hit bid in the sixth when Todd Helton singled off the glove of shortstop Edgar Renteria. Brad Hawpe walked with two outs and Ian Stewart's RBI single cut the Giants' lead to 2-1.

## Cardinals 5, Padres 2

At San Diego, John Smoltz had a brilliant debut with St. Louis, striking out a season-high nine batters—including seven straight—to hold San Diego to three hits over five scoreless innings.

Smoltz also had a bunt single and scored the first run for the NL Central-leading Cardinals.

Albert Pujols hit his 40th homer, a leadoff shot to right

geles for the first time since 1965 while closing out their West Coast trip with a 2-5 record. They return to Wrigley Field having lost 12 of 18 overall.

## Braves 7, Marlins 5

At Atlanta, Brian McCann hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning and matched a career high with five RBIs to lead Atlanta to a win over Florida.

McCann finished with three hits, including a three-run homer in the first.

Peter Moylan (6-2) pitched a scoreless eighth and Rafael Soriano recorded the final three outs for his 20th save.

Matt Diaz had four hits, including a seventh-inning triple off Kiko Calero (2-2), to help the Braves move past Florida for second in the NL East. Rookie Reid Gorecki's sacrifice fly to right field drove in Diaz, tying it at 5.

## Diamondbacks 7, Astros 5

At Houston, Ryan Roberts matched a career high with four hits to help Arizona beat Houston and end a season-high seven-game skid.

Augie Ojeda added two hits and a pair of RBIs for the Diamondbacks, who also ended a season-long nine-game road skid.

Jon Garland (7-11) went six innings and allowed four runs and 10 hits, and the bullpen got the game to Chad Qualls, who worked the ninth for his 23rd save.

## Nationals 8, Brewers 3

At Washington, Ryan Zimmerman, Cristian Guzman and Adam Dunn homered to help Washington beat Milwaukee and end a five-game skid.

Rookie right-hander Craig Stammen (4-6) allowed three runs and five hits over 6 1-3 innings to win for the first time in six starts. Zimmerman drove in three runs and Ronnie Belliard had two RBIs.

Alcides Escobar hit his first major league homer for the Brewers, who had won two straight, but his error helped Washington score three unearned runs off Manny Parra (8-10) in the first.

## Reds 4, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Homer Bailey tossed seven sharp innings as Cincinnati ended Pittsburgh's five-game winning streak.

Bailey (3-4) allowed one run and four hits, retiring his final eight batters to help the Reds win for only the second time in nine games. Cincinnati also improved to 10-26 since the All-Star break.

Delwyn Young had two hits and Andrew McCutchen reached three times for Pittsburgh, which scored 17 runs in the first two games of the series. Kevin Hart (4-3) got the loss.

Brandon Phillips had two hits and two RBIs for the Reds, who climbed back into fifth after dropping into last following Saturday's 12-2 loss.

## Cubs 3, Dodgers 1

At Los Angeles, Jake Fox went had four hits from four pitches with a home run and two RBIs as Chicago rallied to avert a four-game sweep to Los Angeles.

Fox had the first four-hit game of his career while starting in place of outfielder Alfonso Soriano, given his second consecutive day off because of a sore knee.

The Cubs avoided being swept in a four-game series in Los An-





ROSELYN B. MONROYO

An Advance outfielder picks up the ball during a local softball tournament last month. The Palauan Community Association is inviting softball enthusiasts to compete in a fundraising tournament next month.

# Teams invited to PCA softball fundraiser

The Palauan Community Association will be holding the Docomo Pacific/PCA 3rd Annual Softball Tournament beginning next month at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The tournament will be played on three weekends with the first one set for Sept. 19 and 20. The second part of the tournament will take place on Sept. 26 and

27, while the games in the third week will be played on Oct. 3.

The annual event will have a double-elimination format with the winning team receiving a carved trophy and \$500 cash.

Entrance fee is \$200, but if more than 10 teams signed up, each squad will pay only \$150.

The deadline for the submission of

entry fees and copy of rosters is set for Sept. 17. On the same day, managers or representatives of participating teams are required to attend a technical meeting at the Northern Marianas College Gym at 6:30 pm.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used for the various projects of PCA.

For more information, contact Rufino Aguon at 234-5498 extension 2500. (PR)

## G-STARS

From Page 28

game, behind by only four, 46-50, with less than two minutes left on the clock, but committed successive miscues to falter in their bid to steal the victory. Leo Galarse was called for an offensive foul and Luiz Reyas committed an unsportsmanlike foul.

Galarse was trying to provide a screen for Reyes, who was going for a drive. However, Galarse moved when G-Stars' Nate Mateo was fighting the screen and the Saints defender was caught for an offensive foul.

Marvin Rabauliman spotted an open JR Concepcion under the basket in the G-Stars' offensive set to widen the gap, 52-46, with less than 40 seconds second in the second half.

## COME

From Page 28

its third win in as many games. Barbo finished with 28 points, Sanciangco chipped in 20, and Esdreton contributed 15. Esdreton canned a triple that gave IT&E the lead in the closing seconds of the game, while Barbo's split charity preserved the win.

The victory against Tinian was the hardest so far for IT&E, as it played catch up most of the way after the visiting team controlled the first half. With the win, IT&E regained the solo lead in the 12-team field. Tinian dropped to a 1-1 slate, failing to make a follow-up on its debut win over Public School System.

Tinian behind Ringo Reyes and Leo Pascua led after the first period, 23-19, and was still in front at halftime, 39-32, as the two gunners continued to pile up points.

IT&E began mounting a comeback in the third, which ended in a tie, 57-all.

Tinian regrouped and even led by as many as 10 points in the fourth canto, before IT&E made another comeback and stole the win.

In the second game, Micronesian Brokers, Inc. foiled Docomo's bid for a third straight win after nailing a 68-59 triumph.

It was also a come-from-behind win, as MBI was trailing in the first period before it held Docomo to seven points in the fourth period to grab the victory.

The win improved MBI's record to 2-1. MBI won over CPA-Accounting in its first game then lost to Commonwealth Health Center in its second match.

Art Trajano paced MBI's victory, firing 18 points, while Ivan De Vero and Junar Guiab also finished in double figures with 15 and 11 markers, respectively.

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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP) — Scores Sunday after the final round of the Wyndham Championship, a \$5.2 million PGA Tour event at the 7,117-yard, par-70 Sedgefield Country Club:

FINAL ROUND		
Ryan Moore	64-65-70-65	264
Jason Bohn	68-68-66-62	264
Kevin Stadler	69-63-66-66	264
Sergio Garcia	67-64-64-70	265
Kevin Sutherland	71-65-64-66	266
Fred Couples	66-66-67-67	266
Michael Allen	68-65-65-68	266
Brandt Snedeker	64-69-65-68	266

## GAME 2

From Page 28

and Ivan De Vero—also contributed on offense in Game 1, giving SIP coach Mario Alegre headaches.

Alegre, before the start of the series stressed that they must play tough defense on MDX scorers to have a strong chance in the finals. However, SIP did not do its homework on defense in the second half, allowing MDX to pull away with easy baskets.

Turnovers will also be crucial in SIP's bid to extend the series. The defending champion committed four quick errors at the start of the third quarter, swinging the momentum of Game 1 back to MDX.

MDX had its moments of lapses, too, as it went scoreless for about six minutes in the second period, helping SIP grab the lead at halftime.

Another factor for SIP in Game 2 is the foul situation. Early in the third quarter when things began to fall apart for SIP, Edsel Mendoza made it into foul trouble, adding more miseries to the defending champion. Elmer Esdreton, who teamed up with Mendoza in bringing SIP back in the lead in the second quarter, also fell into trouble in the first few minutes of the fourth canto. Esdreton sat out in the bench for several minutes and when he returned to the game, he was already cold and failed to score a single point in the payoff canto.



# Miller Lite 7th Annual Marianas Cup Friendship Tournament

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



A Tinian runner is beaten to the flood second base during their game against SaiPal.



A SaiPal runner beats Rota's first baseman.



SaiPal's Jesus Iguel dives safely to the flooded third base.



An umpire on first base used a raincoat, as heavy rains hit the Tinian-SaiPal game on Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.



Rota's Carl Hocog waits for the pitch.



SaiPal's Julian Camacho made a homerun in his second trip at the plate against Tinian.



A Rota pitcher delivers a pitch from the rain-soaked mound during their game against SaiPal.



A Tinian batter swings and misses, leaving the ball dropping near the plate.



SaiPal's Leo Bobai walks back to first base during their game against Tinian in the Miller Lite 7th Annual Marianas Cup Friendship Tournament on Saturday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.



SaiPal pitcher Leo Bobai catches a throw from their catcher while shortstop Clifton Sillil looks on.





## Yankees hit 5 HRs off Beckett, top Red Sox

Derek Jeter needed one pitch to reach a milestone and get the Yankees going again.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Federer in form for U.S. Open

Roger Federer is back in top-of-the-world form heading into the U.S. Open.



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Decena leads CNMI in second tourney in Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Tinian's Benjie Decena had started redeeming himself after a lackluster performance in the 2009 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships, sweeping his first two games in his second tournament in Fiji.

Decena, who won only one game in the boys' 18-and-under division of the POJC last week, in entered in the Boys Seniors of the 2009 ITF Oceania Plate and seeded first in Pool B.

He lived up to his top billing after winning all two matches in Day 1 of the tournament on Sunday. Decena was first paired against teammate Christian Miller and prevailed in straight



sets, 6-0, 6-0. The Tinian netter then completed an opening-day sweep with a 6-2, 6-0 triumph over American Samoa's Christian Duchnak.

Decena was scheduled to play two more games yesterday. His first assignment in Day 2 was the Cook Islands' Ngana Nicholas and then he was to face Fred Pickering, also of the Cook Islands.

Miller, who had a 0-2 record in Day 1, as he also lost to Nicholas, 4-6, 3-6, was trying to recover in Day 2 against Duchnak and Fiji's Kunal Singh.

Rafael Jones suffered similar fate in Pool A of the Boys Seniors, as he bowed to American Samoa's Chris Sami, 2-6, 0-6, and the Cook Islands' Elias Tukarao, 1-6, 0-6.

Benjie Decene, seen here in action in a local tournament, won his first two games in the ITF Oceania Plate on Sunday in Fiji.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jones had two games yesterday and must sweep them to keep his quarterfinals' chances alive. He was to collide against Fiji's Robin Morove and Shival Krishna.

In the Girls Seniors, Melody Johnson, who is still recovering from a flu, split her opening-day matches. She started her bid in the Oceania Plate with a 6-0, 6-4 win over American Samoa's Angie Roberts before losing

to Fiji's Losana Vosa.

Next up for Johnson were Fiji's Steffi Guttersberger and the Federated States of Micronesia's Shawn Adams.

Thecel Minor and Jodel Fernandez, who are entered in the Girls Seniors and Girls Juniors, respectively, failed to notch a victory in the first day of the tournament.

Fernandez lost to Fiji's Tanya Guttersberger, 3-6, 1-6, while Minor dropped her two games in the opening day. Minor first bowed to Papua New Guinea's Loris Puluspene, 1-6, 1-6, then to Fiji's Priscilla Vosa, 0-6, 3-6.

Fernandez's next game was against Tonga's Simuoko Afemui yesterday and she will conclude her pool play assignment today with a game against Samoa's Sina Lavea.

Minor's Day 2 foes were FSM's Allysa Hawkins and Guam's Katie Lai.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The G-Stars' Joseph Jung, center, is fouled by the Saints' Ben Iglecias, left, during their game in the opening day of the Rotary caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## G-Stars shine in Rotary opening

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The G-Stars started their bid in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on a winning note, outclassing the Saints, 54-49, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Saints' lapses in the closing seconds of the second half helped the G-Stars win their first game of the season.

The Saints were still in the  
**See G-STARS on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

IT&E's Jomary Tumaquip, right, battles a PSS player for a loose ball during the opening of the IT&E government/business caging. IT&E won and now has a 3-0 record after beating Tinian on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

## Come-from-behind wins for IT&E, MBI

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

IT&E bounced back from a 10-point deficit to pull off an 81-79 win over Tinian in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Friday the Gilbert



Elmer Esdreton helped IT&E recover and lifted the team to

**See COME on Page 26**

C. Ada Gymnasium.

The trio of Darwin Barbo, Ryan Sanciango, and

## Game 2 in UFO title series set for Thursday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



MDX-Chow Queen and NMBA-Ebisuya' bids for a sweep in their separate title series against Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinan and Cabalen, respectively, have to wait for two more days.

After Game 2 of the best-of-three title series in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League set for Saturday was postponed due to rain, organizers said the called off matches will be played this Thursday.

NMBA and Cabalen will play first in Game 2 of the masters championship series at 6:30pm, while the MDX-SIP tiff is set for the second game at 8pm.

NMBA took Game 1 easily, routing Cabalen, 104-85. The Ebisuya-backed Northern Mari-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX's Jun Pantaleon, left, chases SIP's Elmer Esdreton during game 1 of their title series in the UFO caging last week at the JP Center Basketball Court.

anas Bartenders Association controlled the game from start to finish to move a win away from clinching the title.

Cabalen, which advanced to the finals after stunning pennant champion Bayani must win Game 2 to force a deciding Game 3.

SIP, which is the league's defending champion, is also in a must-win situation. A victory in Game 2 will put SIP back on track on its bid for an unprecedented fifth UFO title.

The defending champion let Game 1 slipped away from its hands when it collapsed in the second half after leading by 12, 48-36, in the first half.

Bon Tamayo killed SIP with his steals and outside shots. Tayamo finished with a season-high 33 points and hit four triples in the game.

Three other MDX players—Kae Bernardo, Wowie Abuel,  
**See GAME 2 on Page 26**